

# PENNY-WISE

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Volume XLVI Number 2

April 2012

Consecutive Issue #268

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**Penny-Wise** has been published regularly since September 1967. Its founding editor was Warren A. Lapp (1915-1993). Harry E. Salyards has served as Editor-in-Chief since 1986. Contributing Editors: Denis W. Loring, John D. Wright and William R. Eckberg.

Printed by Advance Graphics and Printing, Chandler, OK.

## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR: IT'S TIME

Harry E. Salyards

It was Thursday, April 25, 1991. Three long-time EAC members were sitting in the bar of the 57 Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, when the conversation turned to Del Bland's large cent researches at the American Numismatic Society, New York. (This was in the context of *finally* bringing the Breen large cent book—what had started out 20 years before as 'the update to *Penny Whimsy*'—to press.) Two of the three men at that table had already heard the disturbing news—that Del was discovering multiple discrepancies between the descriptions of the coins in George Clapp's bequest to the ANS, and the actual coins in the trays. Specifically, the coins resting in the Society's collection, 45 years after the Clapp donation, were in numerous cases inferior to the examples Clapp was on record as having donated. As they told the story, it was clear that many coins that had passed at some point through Dr. William Sheldon's collection, were now under a cloud of disputed ownership, to put it mildly. Because, you see, Dr. Sheldon had had free access to the Clapp Collection at the ANS, had stored *his own* collection at the Society for a time, and—well, the rest of the sorry story was soon to be splashed through the numismatic press, with more than enough mud to go around.

But at that moment, it was just three guys in a bar at an EAC convention, with two of them breaking the bad news to the third: "You've got one of those coins." Oh.

His reaction was, I suspect, not unlike the emotional response to the news of an unexpected *death*: disbelief, followed by commingled anger and resentment. For you have to realize that, back in the '80s, to own a *Sheldon* coin was like being able to buy a little piece of the large cent Holy Grail. So that third man at the table had done so. Just one coin. Many others in EAC had likewise bought just one coin, or perhaps two—in *ignorance*—no, make that *innocence*—of whatever had gone down in New York in the '50s. So while the Society was a victim, these collectors, too, were victims: of misplaced trust in Sheldon's reputation.

The Breen large cent book was ultimately published in 2000. Therein one may find a number of Condition Census pedigree chains with the damning links, "—George H. Clapp—ANS—William H. Sheldon—." The responses by the later possessors of those coins, over the intervening 21 years, have varied widely, as you might expect. In this issue of *Penny-Wise*, Bob Grellman recounts the tale of two of those coins which ended up in the estate of the late J. R. Frankenfield—complete with notations on their envelopes: "THROW IN OCEAN." For the sake of our copper heritage, Bob, working with the ANS, was able to reach a less destructive outcome.

Twenty-one years—a generation—has passed. It's time for closure. Because there is a cry for justice from beyond the grave—and I don't mean Frankenfield's, or Sheldon's. I mean George Clapp. You don't have to like the ANS. You don't even have to believe that coin collections should be given to museums. You only have to recognize that George Clapp *did* make that decision. And as custodians of what were once *his* coins, we have a duty to honor it.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UPDATED ESTIMATES OF RARE HALF CENTS

Michael Spurlock

As reported in my last article in the January 2012 edition of *Penny-Wise*, I have been working for about four years on an extensive project to update estimated census information and pedigree chains for certain varieties of business-strike Half Cents.

As an addition to this project, I have attempted to identify and verify as many known examples of varieties thought to be of Rarity 6 or higher, and also to update the rarity ratings for business-strike Half Cent varieties previously reported to be Rarity 5 or higher. This article is a report on my findings about varieties rated R5 and higher. As with most updates for rarity ratings, additional examples for a variety have been discovered or ones were reported that had not been before. Some rarity ratings decreased accordingly.

I do not pretend to have a corner on the market of knowledge on the location and grading of all rare half cents or those which make up the best examples of a particular variety or sub-variety. My survey began with surveys and censuses conducted by Half Cent experts in the past and some which were current. I also conducted an e-mail and phone survey of all EAC members for which an e-mail address and/or phone number was available. For specific coins identified in past surveys, I attempted to trace the coin to its current owner. I also surveyed approximately 3,500 auction catalogs known to have a high concentration of coppers, copper dealer fixed price lists, auction house archives, coin dealer advertisements, coin journals and references, the latest 1/200 Survey from 2005, the libraries and working papers of past and present half cent experts, and other sources of information including details of certain private treaty transactions, my database of around 2,500 digital photos of half cents, and other information made available to me. If I could not positively trace a specific coin to a known current owner or an unknown owner of a coin from a recent auction, it was excluded from my count. Obviously, examples of these varieties owned by certain collectors or dealers who like their privacy may not be included in my survey.

We also know that not all Half Cent collectors are members of EAC (Go recruit!) or have purchased their coins from the 'name' auction houses or the 'name' copper dealers or the 'name' general coin dealers. Other than voluntary data shared, we have no way of knowing with certainty what half cents are actually "out there." I currently plan to advertise in *Coin World* to ask for non-EAC collector assistance in positively identifying additional examples of varieties included in my survey.

As we all know and as you can see from the tables below, estimates of coin rarities are a fleeting and ever changing thing. For example, during the past two weeks, I have added four new coins to my database: two brand new discoveries (1794 C2b and 1809 C1 from eBay) and two coins (1806 C3 and one rare variety not to be announced) that have never been included in any previous survey. The cherries are still ripe for picking so keep your eyes sharp! The results of this survey follow.

United States Half Cents				
Rarities of R-5 and Above By Variety				
March 12, 2012				
	Spurlock	Estimated	2005	
	Estimate	Current	1/200 Survey	
Variety	2012	Population	Population	Comments
1794 C-01b	R-5+	35+	20	New ones have been located for the past several years. 35 positively identified.
1794 C-02b	R-5+	29+	21	Latest discovery in 2012.
1794 C-03a	R-5	a.	41	13 Different Coins Down to F12
1794 C-03b	R-7+	6	3	No new ones here.
1794 C-04b	R-7-	12	6	The report of a 13th is unconfirmed. Would go to R-6+ if it is confirmed
1794 C-05b	R-8	3	2	A report of an example in an old-time collection has not been confirmed.
1794 C-06a	R-5	a.	34	19 Different Coins Down to VG10
1794 C-06b	R-8+	1	0	No change here. :-)
1794 C-07	R-5-	a.	32	20 Different Coins Down to VF20
1794 C-08	R-5-	a.	42	22 Different Coins Down to F12
1795 C-02b	R-5+	29+	14	29 Positively Identified. Several untraced Auction Records.
1795 C-03	R-5	a.	34	21 Different Coins Down to G6
1795 C-06b	R-5	40+	25	40 Positively Identified
1796 C-01	R-6-	26+	9	26 Positively Identified; 20 Untraced Auction Refs.
1797 C-03c	R-6+	14	6	14 Positively Identified
1802 C-01	R-5+	31+	14	31 Positively Identified. Additional Reports and Untraced Auction References.
1804 C-02	R-6-	24+	12	Latest reported discovery in 2010.
1805 C-02	R-5	a.	31	17 Different Coins Down to VG10
1806 C-03	R-5	41+	29	3 New Examples Reported in the last year.
1808 C-01	R-6	16	6	4 Discovered in the past 1-1/2 years.
1809 C-01	R-5-	a.	48	25 Different Coins Down to F12

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	Spurlock	Gilbert	Breen	Cohen	Cohen	Breen	Reynolds	Manley	Eckberg	CQR
Variety	Estimate	1916	1960	1971	1982	1985	1989	1998	2007	2008
	2012									
1794 C-01b	R-5+	Unknown	R-7+	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6	R-6-	R-6
1794 C-02b	R-5+	Unknown	R-8	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6	R-6+	R-6
1794 C-03a	R-5	***	R-5	R-6	R-5	R-6-	R-5	R-5	R-5	R-5
1794 C-03b	R-7+	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	R-8	R-8	R-8	R-7+	R-7+	R-7+
1794 C-04b	R-7-	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	R-8	R-8-	R-8	R-7	R-7	R-7
1794 C-05b	R-8	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	R-8+	R-8+	R-8	R-8	R-8-	R-8
1794 C-06a	R-5	***		R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-5+	R-5+	R-5+
1794 C-06b	R-8+	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	R-8+	R-8+	R-8	R-8+	R-8+	R-8+
1794 C-07	R-5-	***	R-7	R-6	R-5	R-6-	R-5	R-5	R-5	R-5+
1794 C-08	R-5-	***	R-6	R-6	R-5	R-5+	R-5	R-5	R-5	R-5
1795 C-02b	R-5+	***	R-7	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6+	R-6+	R-6+
1795 C-03	R-5	R-8	R-7	R-6	R-5	R-5+	R-5	R-5+	R-5+	R-5+
1795 C-06b	R-5	Unlisted	Unlisted	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6	Unlisted	R-6
1796 C-01	R-6-	***	R-7	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6
1797 C-03c	R-6+	Unknown	R-7	R-7	R-7	R-7+	R-7-	R-7-	R-7-	R-7-
1802 C-01	R-5+	Exceedingly Rare	R-7	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6	R-6	R-6
1804 C-02	R-6-	Unknown	Unknown	R-8	R-7	R-7	R-7	R-6+	R-6	R-6
1805 C-02	R-5	R-8	R-7	R-7	R-6	R-6-	R-6	R-6-	R-5+	R-5
1806 C-03	R-5	Unknown	R-8	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-6-	R-6-	R-6
1808 C-01	R-6	Unknown	R-8	R-8	R-7	R-7	R-7	R-7	R-7	R-7
1809 C-01	R-5-	Unknown	R-8	R-7	R-6	R-6+	R-6	R-5+	R-5-	R-4

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NOTE: Here is a little tongue-in-cheek from the past. Please note the "publisher" of Roger Cohen's 2nd Edition above. "Wigglesworth" was his dog and "Ghatt" was his cat!!!



## THE EVOLUTION OF U.S. MINTING TECHNOLOGY 1792 – 1837

### Part III: The Mechanization of the Mint

Craig Sholley

While other government officials may not have given it much thought, the Mint's founding officials realized from the beginning that mechanization was an urgent need. In a January 12, 1798 letter to Mint Director Elias Boudinot explaining some of the Mint's antiquated ways, Chief Coiner Henry Voigt wrote:

The Mint work [sic] was originally constructed for a steam Engine, to be the impelling power for the mill work .... It was no error of the Director [Rittenhouse] that horses were employed, they only were protemporary till it should be found more convenient to erect a steam Engine; for he knew perfectly well that horses were insufficient to make Dollars to advantage; but towards the time Dollars were to be struck, he was fearful of the expenses; because too much fault had already been found with the expenses that had been; and therefore declined.

While Voigt specifically mentions dollars, it is clear from other historical records such as newspaper accounts, congressional reports, and the Mint records themselves that the Mint was having problems sustaining a reasonable production of any denomination.

In fact, the Mint was both under-powered and under-funded, and everyone knew it. In 1795, Congress established a committee to investigate the problems of the fledgling Mint, and that committee reported exactly these problems and recommended both increased funding and the installation of a steam engine to improve operations!<sup>1</sup>

The problems with mechanizing the Mint lie solely in the politics. Many members of Congress strenuously opposed the establishment of a government mint. While some may have opposed this out of distrust of governmental control of the coinage since under English rule the colonies had been systematically subjected to underweight and counterfeit coinage, several influential members opposed it out of pure greed - they stood to gain if their business associates were awarded a contract for private coinage.

Fortunately, the Mint had a few powerful allies, not the least of whom were President Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. It was equally fortunate that these allies realized the tremendous implications of a sovereign and governmentally controlled coinage. Not only did a national coinage make a powerful political statement that America was a new and sovereign nation (something not lost on the rest of the world, especially England), but governmental control would show that this fledgling nation was serious and its economy would not be placed at the mercy of another nation or private enterprise.

Thus the Mint and its allies had to play a political waiting game. After years of nothing more than blunting the opposition to prevent a shutdown, the Mint finally cultivated enough support in politics, banking, and commerce to firmly establish itself.

In 1816, a rather fortuitous accident provided a convenient and compelling reason to at least partially mechanize the Mint. According to Mint records in the National Archives, at 2:00 a.m. on January 11, 1816, a fire broke out in the building housing the rolling machine and planchet cutting presses. The fire then spread to the building that housed the furnaces for smelting bullion.

While the fire effectively destroyed the Mint's capability to refine and strike silver and gold coinage, it also provided the Director with the opportunity to at least partially mechanize the Mint. (Copper coinage was unaffected as the coining room with its screw presses was not involved in the fire and the Mint did not produce copper planchets, but rather ordered them from British firms.)

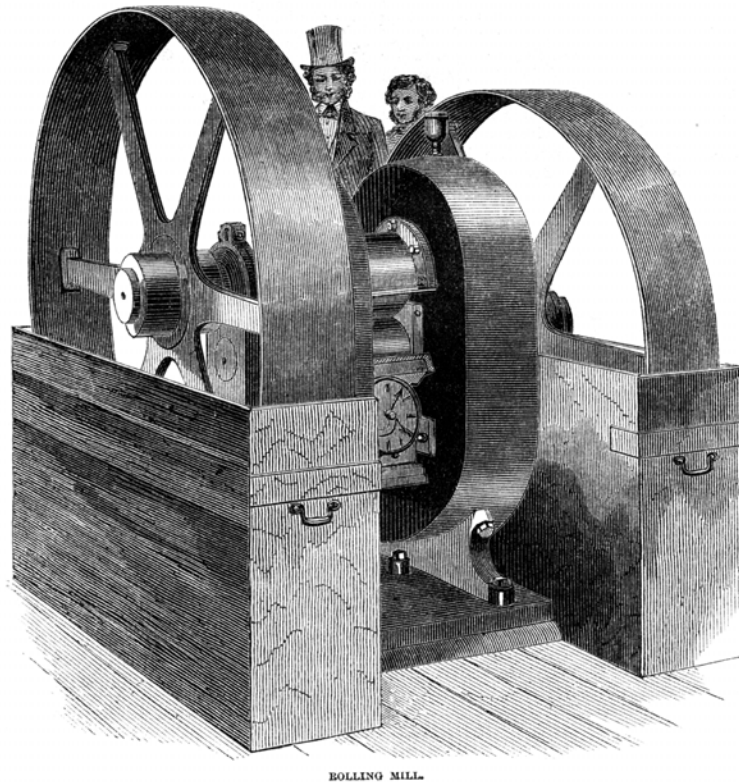
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<sup>1</sup> See Boudinot's 1795 report on the Mint.



On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Mint Director Robert Patterson wrote to President Madison seeking approval to repair the Mint, stating “*that this can be done, and on a much improved plan, without any special appropriation for that purpose, merely from the balances of former appropriations not yet carried to the surplus fund.*” The promise to spend only surplus funds was apparently a powerful “selling point” and Patterson quickly received approval on the 19<sup>th</sup> to repair the Mint.

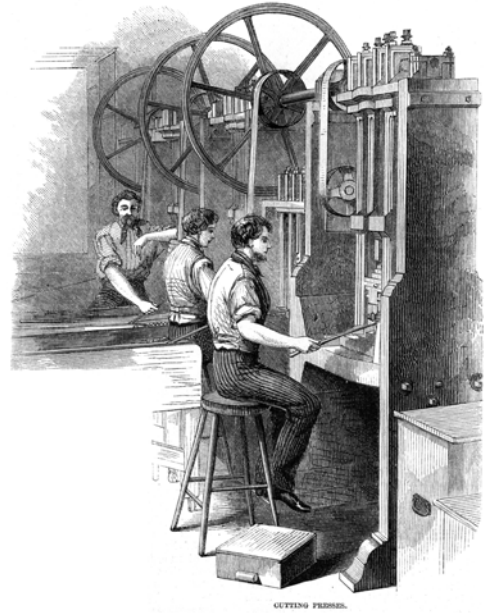
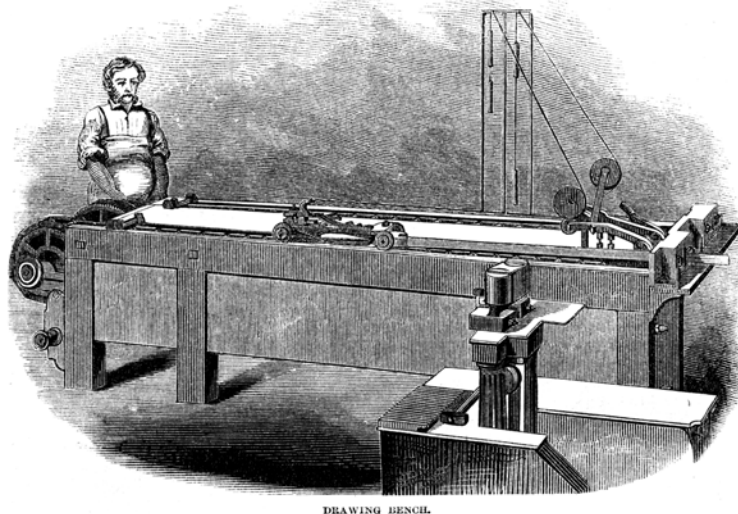
Three steam-powered rolling machines with additional sets of rollers and gear assemblies were ordered to drawings supplied by the Mint from the English firm of Harrold and Belles on May 27, 1816 and received in late November. The records likewise show that a steam engine was ordered from Oliver Evans. This engine was installed and operating some time before May 1817 as in the “Mint Report” for that year, the Director reported that silver coinage had recommenced in the beginning of that month.



A new draw bench and a planchet cutting press, both powered by the new steam engine, were also installed sometime during 1817. No record remains as to the source of this equipment, but their overall design does provide some clues.

The drawbench was likely purchased from Bouton, as illustrations of the Mint’s bench as shown in publications such as the July 17, 1852 issue of *Gleason’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* and detailed drawings of Bouton’s equipment shown in the 1815 edition of the *American Edition of the New Edinburgh Encyclopedia* show a rather “remarkable similarity”.

The planchet cutting press was apparently of Mint design, and ordered from either Harrold and Belles or Oliver Evans, both of whom would have been capable of manufacturing the press. There is only one passing mention of it in the historical record: Waldo Abbott’s December 1861 article *Making Money* from Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, where it is described as the “first one installed about forty years prior”.



### **New drawbench and planchet cutting press**

While the new “steam-powered” rolling mills, draw bench, and planchet cutting press vastly improved and speeded strip rolling and blanking operations, the Mint was still stuck with its manually operated screw presses. In fact, it would have been virtually impossible for the Mint to update its presses at this time. The coining presses had not been damaged in the fire and the Director certainly realized the uproar that a request for additional funds would create. This is undoubtedly the reason that Patterson went out of his way to point out that the repairs and new equipment would be purchased from existing funds.

Further compounding the problem was the fact that the only steam-powered coining equipment commercially available at the time was produced by Matthew Boulton’s English firm.<sup>2</sup> With the War of 1812 just ending the prior year, one can imagine the reaction of a Congress generally antagonistic towards the Mint to a significant appropriation for equipment produced by a former enemy! Unfortunately, the Mint would again have to bide its time.

### **The “Peale Revolution”**

With the long period of revolutionary disturbances in Latin America coming to an end in the mid-1820s, silver bullion (and some gold) began to flow into the United States in vast amounts. This sudden influx placed a serious strain on the Mint’s capacity and the situation was only further compounded by increasing production of gold in the southern states.

Mint Director Samuel Moore was quick to recognize the growing need for additional capacity, and, in 1827 began preparing cost estimates for constructing and equipping a new Mint. Not surprisingly, one of Moore’s foremost concerns was the Mint’s antiquated screw presses and he wasted little time, contacting Boulton, Watt & Co. that summer to inquire about their supplying steam-powered coining presses for a new mint.

On December 10, 1828, with cost estimates in hand, Moore wrote a letter to the chairman of the House committee on the Mint urging him to place a bill before Congress to fund construction of a new

<sup>2</sup> See Cooper, “The Art and Craft of Coinmaking”, pp. 127 – 128. In 1812, German engineer Diedrich Ulhorn developed a prototype of a new type of press, but the final design was not available until 1817. Discussion of this press follows.

Mint equipped with new steam-powered coining machinery.<sup>3</sup> Fortunately, by this time the majority of the Congress were well aware of the growing needs, and with the backing of increasingly powerful private commercial and financial interests, the measure was quickly passed on March 2, 1829.

In the meantime, the negotiations with Boulton & Co. were not proceeding well. Moore demanded (quite understandably), that detailed drawings of the equipment be provided as part of the contract; a provision to which Boulton would not agree. Another problem was the company's insistence that the Mint pay for the equipment in advance rather than on delivery and proof of operation. This was the final blow. Although he had the backing of Congress along with political and commercial allies, the Congress would not tolerate a "failed experiment. So, from Moore's perspective the payment terms were unacceptable and the negotiations were dropped.

The tone of the negotiations shows that Boulton & Co. had seriously miscalculated. They apparently thought the Mint's need more urgent than it was. In fact, Moore was well aware that it would take several years to build and equip the new Mint. Furthermore, Moore had "bought some time" in meeting the growing coinage demands by purchasing another screw coining press in December of 1827 and hiring additional labor.<sup>4</sup> With the completion of the new buildings in January of 1833, the Mint merely transferred operations and continued on until an answer to the equipment problem could be found.

That solution came about in May of 1833 when Moore decided to send Franklin Peale on a tour of the mints in England, Germany and France to review their equipment and overall operation. Contrary to popular myth, this trip was not an "industrial spy mission". Moore had written to the U.S. ministers in the respective nations seeking permission to visit.<sup>5</sup> These nations were more than happy to cooperate; not only was the U.S. a growing commercial market, but it was also becoming an important political and military force as well. Friendly relations were a good idea!

Peale reported back to Director Moore During his travels and as a result of these reports it became increasingly clear that Moore's decision not to be pushed into a hasty purchase of Boulton coining press was indeed correct. While Boulton's development of a steam-powered press was certainly important, his press was not exactly the ground-breaking leap in technology most think it was.

All Boulton had really done was apply the power of a steam engine to a standard screw press through a rather convoluted series of levers and cams. In fact, after seeing his presses and power system in the London mint, Peale noted that Boulton's equipment was very large, rather slow, and due to the complex mechanisms, inefficient in its use of power.

In fact, the "Uhlhorn" presses Peale saw in Germany and France were far superior to the Boulton presses were. Named after their inventor, Diederich Uhlhorn, these presses **were** a fundamental improvement in minting technology.<sup>6</sup>

The Uhlhorn presses were so technologically superior that within a decade they came into wide use throughout Europe. And, in the Paris mint that Peale saw the Thonnelier press, which was yet a further refinement of the Uhlhorn design.

Rather than using the impact from a descending screw to accomplish the strike, the Ulhorn and Thonnelier presses used the "squeeze" applied by a "knuckle joint". And, the mechanism was as simple as it was elegant. Unlike Boulton's complex arrangement of levers and cams, these presses were driven by simple belts and pulleys attached directly to the steam engine's main fly-wheel. The design was so

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<sup>3</sup> Taxay, "*U.S. Mint and Coinage*", pp. 143 – 145.

<sup>4</sup> RAP, Entry 181 – Ledgers and Blotters of Ordinary Receipts and Expenditures, warrant dated Dec. 11, 1827 to Rush and Muhlenberg (successor to Oliver Evans) for a coining press.

<sup>5</sup> RAP, Entry 23 – Peale Correspondence, in letters back to Moore, Peale notes these prior contacts and that the "official letters of introduction" he carried with him were well received.

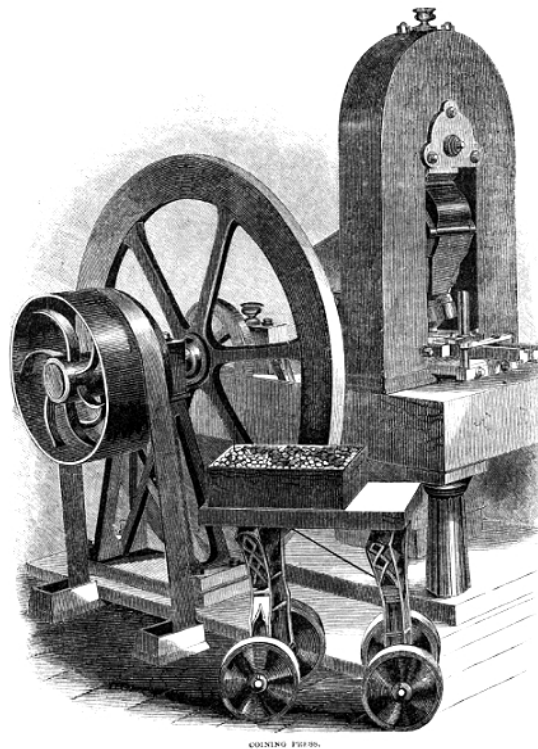
<sup>6</sup> Cooper, "*The Art and Craft of Coinmaking*", pp. 127 – 128, & 137 – 147. Ulhorn developed a prototype in 1812 and the final design was patented in 1817.

mechanically efficient that the entire press had about the same number of levers and cams as just the feeding mechanism of the Boulton presses!

Legend has it that Peale “stole” the design from the Paris mint by making detailed drawings of the press. However, another letter from Peale to Moore tells quite a different story. The French let Peale copy the design and even provided mint workers to help him in producing the drawings and explaining mechanical details! All that was asked is that Peale pay for their time, which, of course, he happily did.<sup>7</sup>

After Peale’s return, Moore sought bids for construction of three Thonnelier presses and subsequently placed a contract with the firm of Merrick, Agnew and Tyler. Rufus Tyler (who would later become the Chief Coiner of the New Orleans Mint) was the mechanic in charge of their construction.

The first press, used for cents and quarters, was installed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1836.<sup>8</sup> Following some initial tests and subsequent modifications, in early April cents were the first coins struck on the new press with quarters apparently following later that month or the next.<sup>9</sup> Both cents and quarters were struck at the rate of 80 per minute, which was over twice the rate of a screw press and half again the rate of Boulton’s presses.<sup>10</sup>



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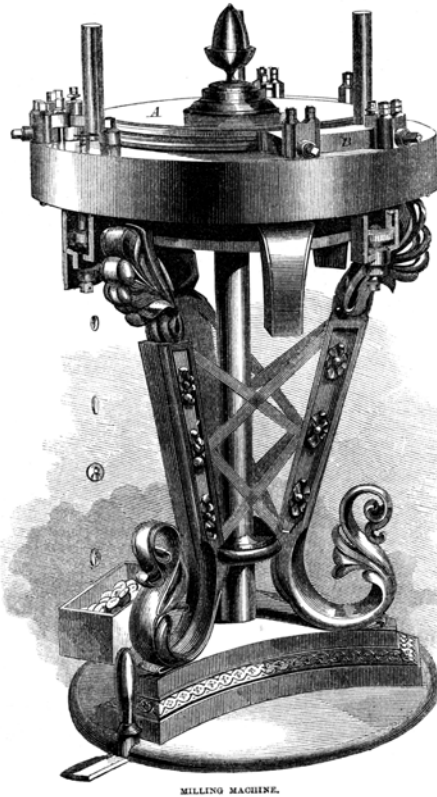
<sup>7</sup> RAP, Entry 23 – Peale Correspondence, letter from Peale to Moore dated Nov. 20, 1833

<sup>8</sup> See the Journal of the Franklin Institute, Vol. XVIII, No. 5, report by Franklin Peale on the new presses, pp. 307 – 310. Here Peale states that the “medium size press” was for eagles, quarter dollars, and cents. A letter from Mint Director Patterson to George Newbold dated March 1, 1837 [RAP, Entry 1 – General Correspondence] stating that the first press is used for cents and quarters confirms that this is the press to which Peale is referring.

<sup>9</sup> Since the die holders for the new press were simple to machine, the new presses used same dies as those used screw presses. Thus there is no way to tell a “steam-press coin” from one struck on the screw presses.

<sup>10</sup> With the press for half dollars and dollars still not delivered and under pressure from the Philadelphia bankers handling the “French Indemnity payments”, the Mint tried to use the press to strike half dollars in November of 1836. This was, of course, a rather dismal failure; the press jammed under the increased pressure. See Craig Sholley, “*The First Steam Press Coinage*”, Penny-Wise, November 1998 pp. 402 – 406 for a discussion of the French Indemnity coinage and the striking of half dollars on the first press.

Peale also brought back a design for a steam-powered milling (edge rimming) machine. Depending upon the denomination, the new milling machine with its rotary dies could rim planchets at about 5 to 20 times the rate of the old manually-powered rimming machine.<sup>11</sup> With the new high-speed coining presses, this machine was a crucial part of the coining operations.



**Milling machine**

### **New Engraving and Die Sinking Practices**

Besides the designs for the press and the milling machine, Peale brought back two other crucial improvements: the method for hubbing full dies and news of the reducing lathe.

The means to replicate (hub) dies in a press using a “master” had eluded the Mint from its beginning. And this capability, although highly desirable before, became even more critical with the introduction of the new steam-powered presses - it did little good to have high speed presses if you couldn’t keep them supplied with dies!

Past researchers have offered differing explanations for the Mint’s inability to hub full dies. Apparently thinking that the die steel or hardening processes used by the Mint were inadequate to the task, Taxay opined that incomplete master dies were used to extend their life.<sup>12</sup> While this may sound logical, a review of the historical records clearly shows this to be mistaken as the die steel and hardening processes used at the Mint were **exactly** the same as those used in Europe, but the Europeans were able to hub full dies whereas the Americans were not.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Waldo Abbot, “*Making Money*”, Harper’s New Monthly Magazine, Dec. 1861, pg. 23.

<sup>12</sup> Taxay, “*The U.S. Mint and Coinage*”, pg. 84.

<sup>13</sup> Craig Sholley, “*Early US Minting Methods Part I: Die Forging and Hardening*”, John Reich Journal whole #44.



Breen offered yet another explanation: the Mint's presses were not powerful enough to hub dies. On page 210 of his *"Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins"*, he states that only the new steam press was powerful enough to hub full dies. However, historical records again directly contradict this assertion.

In the first place, Peale's report on his visit to the European mints shows that neither the French nor the British used their steam coining presses for hubbing; they used large screw presses.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, both Waldo Abbott's 1861 account of his visit to the Philadelphia Mint and the Mint's own "Annual Reports" show that screw presses were used to hub dies at least until the arrival of hydraulic presses in 1893, and possibly after that.<sup>15</sup>

So, if the Mint's inability to hub full dies wasn't due to materials or equipment, what was the problem? The problem was, quite simply, lack of technique.

Most metals, including steel, get "harder" when they are worked (rolled, bent, stamped, etc.) at room temperature. This effect, called "work hardening", causes problems when sinking a die since the steel gets harder and harder with each blow of the press. Furthermore, impressing the design into the die causes the metal to flow up and out from the impression much like pressing your thumb into a piece of clay.

As a result, the die ends up quite hard, and therefore resistant to further impression. Additionally a ridge of metal rises up around the impressed design effectively creating a "dam" that even further restricts the metal flow.

With literally hundreds of years more experience in coining than the U.S., both the British and French had developed processes to eliminate these problems. And these were the processes that Peale brought back from Europe.

On page 170 of his June 1835 report on the European mints, Peale noted the British technique for hubbing dies:

A single blow is given to the dye for sovereigns, one man making nearly a whole revolution of the press. It is then softened in an iron box buried in charcoal, and receives another blow, care being taken to brush it clean between each operation. The superfluous metal is then turned off and it is finished off by a light blow.

And on page 209, Peale describes the French process:

The dyes are warmed and then placed under the press, from which they receive a few blows, the number of which depend on the size of the dye that is being reproduced. They are turned round between each of the blows... The dyes for the five franc piece require that they be annealed twice, and those for lesser denominations only once.

Since various Mint records before 1835 do mention the annealing of dies, it seems that the part of the process that had eluded the Mint was the machining off of the ridge of metal pushed up during hubbing. Missing this simple step had prevented the Mint from hubbing full dies for over forty years!<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> RAP, Entry 23 – Peale Correspondence, "Report by Franklin Peale on his visit to Europe in the Mint Service", dated June 17, 1835 (a.k.a., "The Peale Report").

<sup>15</sup> Waldo Abbott, "Making Money", Harper's Monthly Magazine, Nov.-Dec. 1861. *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint* for 1883, 1896 and 1902. Other Mint records [RAP, Entry 3 – General Correspondence] also show that the Mint hubbed the new Gobrecht Dollar dies in late 1835 to early 1836, about **four months prior** to the arrival of the first steam coining press in late March, 1836. Thus, the real reason for the Mint's inability to hub full dies was solely process related – discussion follows.

<sup>16</sup> According to Mint records [RAP, Entry 3 – General Correspondence], the dies for the "Gobrecht Dollar" were the first successful fully-hubbed dies. These were followed by the Reeded Edge half dollar dies, and those for the new Seated coinage. However, the 1834 Overton 113 and 114 varieties (the so-called "Abominable Bastards") may have actually been a partially successful experimental hubbing based on Peale's letters back to Moore during his travels in Europe. Lehman and Gunnet suggested just such a possibility in their 1992 article in the John Reich Journal (see whole # 18, pg. 34). Brad Karoleff also notes that there is apparently on one known die marriage for the 1838

As previously mentioned, Peale also returned with another dramatic improvement for the engraving process he had seen in the Paris mint: the so-called “portrait lathe”. The lathe was a milling machine capable of following a metal model and engraving a reduced image of that model in a steel die body. Mint Director Robert Patterson was so impressed with Peale’s description that, after some brief inquiries, he ordered one from the French engineer Contamin, who had produced the one Peale had seen at the Paris mint.

However, since the lathes were made to order, it would not arrive until March of 1837. In the mean time, the Mint made do with a precursor to the portrait lathe called a “medal-ruling machine”, probably supplied by Christian Gobrecht who had joined the Mint as engraver in September of 1835 following William Kneass’s crippling stroke.

While not a true “engraving machine” like the portrait lathe, the medal-ruling machine could produce a reduced etching on a die face from an oversized model. And, not only did this etching show the exact outline of the design, it also created relief lines. In fact, the machine was so accurate that it was later used to produce the etchings of coins for the plates in Eckfeldt and DuBois’ 1842 “Mint Manual” of gold and silver coins.<sup>17</sup>

With a medal-ruling lathe, the engraver’s task was significantly easier. Rather than working in actual size directly on the die face, the engraver could now make an oversized wax or clay model in relief exactly as he wanted it to appear on the coin. A brass casting was then produced from a plaster mold of the model and used as a template for the medal ruling machine, which produced a reduced “coin size” etching on the die face.

While the engraver still had to hand engrave the hub or die, this process did eliminate the tedious task of drawing the design on the die, and reducing it from an oversize model significantly improved both the detail and proportion resulting in a far more artistic rendering. In the hands of a highly accomplished engraver like Gobrecht, the dies took on a machine-like perfection not previously seen on U.S. coins.

While the medal-ruling machine could have been used to produce an actual master die, comparison of the various varieties of Gobrecht’s new dollar and half dollar show that he continued to work in relief producing a master hub containing only the central device. It was still easier to punch the letters, numerals, stars, and into the master die rather than cut them in relief on the hub.

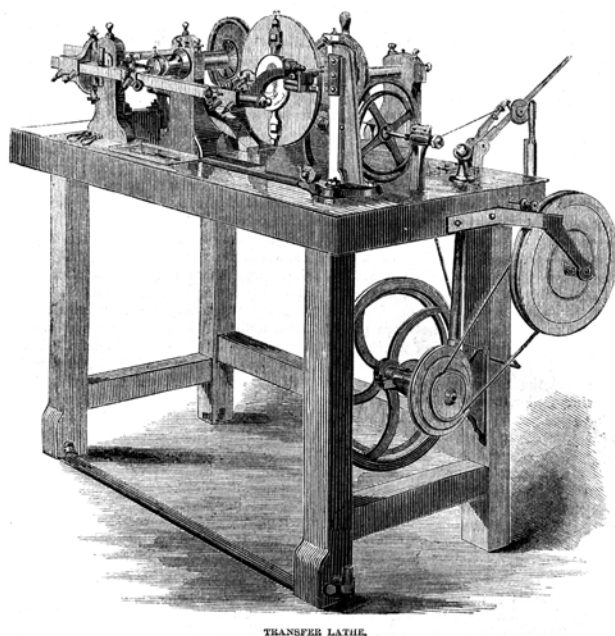
The arrival of the Contamin lathe in March of 1837 lathe literally revolutionized the engraving of dies at the Mint.<sup>18</sup> Just as with the medal-ruling machine, the engraver produced an oversized model in wax or clay, made a plaster mold of the model, and from that mold produced an iron or brass casting to be used as template. The major difference being that lathe could actually cut a “coin-size” replica of a design into a hub from the oversized pattern.

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quarter dollar. Collectors should note that it is possible that the dies for these were also fully hubbed, and thus the only difference would be in the date position.

<sup>17</sup> In a rather serendipitous turn, it was the plate of the 1804 dollar that first alerted numismatists to this rarity’s existence.

<sup>18</sup> Taxay misstates the arrival date as 1836. The lathe was ordered in 1836 but took almost a year to build and ship.



**Contamin lathe**

However, like the medal-ruling machine, there were limitations. The lathe was not good at reproducing elements with tall, straight sides and sharp angles. So, the stars, letters, numerals and possibly the dentils still had to be hand punched into the master die. As a result, the hub still only contained the central device. Additionally, the lathe was not good at reproducing fine details and it also left some rather heavy machining lines. As a result, this “roughed-out” hub required a good bit of hand finishing.<sup>19</sup>

Nonetheless, the lathe not only eliminated the “heavy” engraving work, it was also very fast. In June of 1837, Mint Director Patterson reported to Treasury Secretary Levi Woodbury that the reverse master hubs for both the new dime and half dime were cut in an afternoon, work which Patterson said (with perhaps a bit of exaggeration) would have previously taken months.

The effects of the improvements that Peale brought back literally transformed the Mint from a small, antiquated artisan’s shop into the most advanced mint in the world with capabilities exceeding that of either Britain or France. In fact, upon visiting the U.S. Mint some years later, an attaché of the Royal Mint in London remarked to the Chief Coiner, “When you come to London, I beg you not to visit our Mint. You are a hundred years in advance of us.”

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### **The Principal Literature**

Much of the information presented in this series comes from the following texts, or sources quoted therein. Their importance to serious research on early U.S. coinage cannot be overstated and those interested should make every effort to obtain copies for study.

Waldo Abbott, "Making Money", *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Nov.-Dec. 1861 – this two part article provides the best overview of the second Mint and it’s equipment. Photocopy is available through most major libraries by special order.

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<sup>19</sup> Waldo Abbott, “*Making Money*”, *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, Dec. 1861, pg. 23.

Denis Cooper, *The Art and Craft of Coinmaking* - written by a former chief engineer at the Royal mint in London and is the definitive work on minting methods and equipment.

Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. Du Bois, *The Mint Manual of Coins of All Nations* - although it is primarily a compendium of the coinage of various nations, pages 186 - 189 contain an description of the “medal ruling lathe”. This work also contains a brief description of the minting and engraving methods used in 1842.

Eugene Ferguson, ed., *Early Engineering Reminiscences of George Escol Sellers* - primarily important for Sellers’ discussion of the operation of the screw press for cents and the new steam powered presses and other mechanized equipment installed in 1836. It also contains discussions of other mechanical equipment of the time, thus providing important historical context.

James Ross Snowden, *The Mint Manual of Coins of All Nations* - again a compendium like Eckfeldt and Du Bois, it also contains the only direct quotations of Voigt’s first account book which is now missing from the Mint records in the National Archives.

Frank H. Stewart, *History of the First U.S. Mint* - despite its small size this text contains perhaps the best overview of the early Mint along with direct quotations of early Mint records.

Don Taxay, *The U.S Mint and Coinage* - published over forty years ago and covering the period from the Revolution to modern times, Taxay’s landmark work remains the foremost text on the history of U.S. coinage.

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## ***AMERICAN HALF CENTS—THE LITTLE HALF SISTERS*** **The First 100 Invoices**

Bob Kebler

This past fall, while I was reviewing my copy of Roger S. Cohen, Jr.’s book, *American Half Cents—The Little Half Sisters*, I noticed that it had been 40 years since the publication of his first edition (December 1971). Having had a personal connection to Roger, I have collected some literature related to his numismatic career since I joined EAC in 2000. It didn’t take long for me to realize that 2012 was also a year of several other anniversaries related to Roger’s work. These include the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his second edition of his half cent book (January 1982), the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first (and most famous) Fixed Price List (October 1972), and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the auction of his half cent collection by Superior Galleries on February 8, 1992, this after his untimely death in 1990.

This seemed like a perfect exhibit to put together and show at the EAC Convention this year in Buffalo. I contacted R. Tettenhorst and Mike Packard, two long-time friends of Roger’s, about any other ideas for the exhibit that they might have. Their suggestions have led to many others, and the scope of my project has greatly increased. Mike suggested many other aspects of Roger’s life and career to investigate, and Tett opened the floodgates with an invitation to view Roger’s voluminous archival records. A brief note in the November 1993 issue of *Penny-Wise* says:

R. TETTENHORST writes,

Through the generous cooperation of Debby Cohen, the research papers and notes which Roger used for the writing of the two editions of his half cent book, along with other research material and correspondence in connection with half cents, has been donated to the library of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. After I have had an opportunity to catalogue the material on behalf of the library, it will be available for researchers to use as a resource.

As both Tett and I live in St. Louis where the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society is located, I was able recently to spend two fascinating days looking through the material, and I *barely* scratched the surface. The records consist of six boxes plus some assorted bundles of correspondence, research notes, inventory cards, account ledgers, receipts, files related to the creation of his books, and many other items. Tett serves as the informal custodian of these records, so that access to half cent collectors is enhanced. I volunteered, and Tett consented, to allow me to catalogue and organize the material, which Tett has never been able to complete. My goals are now as follows:

- (1) To provide the catalogue of the Roger S. Cohen, Jr. archives to the members of EAC through publication in *Penny-Wise*;
- (2) To gather as much information from the current members of EAC as they are willing to share with me about their experiences with Roger;
- (3) To prepare an article on the life and career of Roger Cohen after I am done with the cataloging;
- (4) To provide some occasional material for inclusion in *Penny-Wise* using the above records, the first of which follows.

Roger S. Cohen, Jr. published the first edition of *American Half Cents—The Little Half Sisters* in December of 1971. While he had collected half cents for 20 years, in the half cent world he was relatively unknown. In fact, in his review of the book in the March 1972 issue of *Penny-Wise*, John Wright wrote on the authorship of a new half cent book, “Why Roger Cohen?” Cohen started work on the book in 1969<sup>20</sup>, and he stated, “Writing a book is quite a job. In my case I have carried it through all the steps from idea to research, writing, editing, proofreading, paste-ups, publication, and distribution”<sup>21</sup>. The publication of the book was certainly a financial risk for Cohen. In his response enclosed with Thomas Katman’s invoice he wrote, “Prior to putting my book out I felt that there were only about 25 half cent collectors in the country. For that reason, I had very few copies of my book printed. This by the way is why it is so damn expensive. [\$15 doesn’t seem so bad today!—B.K.]. I’m just trying to break even.” While he professed that he was unconcerned whether the book turned a profit, in 1973 he said, “I am still in the hole but frankly I don’t care about the financial aspect,” and told Jack Beymer that “the book has been a good tax loss.” As a Certified Public Accountant by profession, this certainly had to weigh on his mind, not to mention the fact that the completed books took up an entire room in the basement of his home. Two thousand copies were printed, of which seven were noted to be “errors.” Interestingly, Roger’s working edition for the revision of his book was a copy in which the text was inverted in relation to the cover. Also included in the total were 25 books which he gave as presentation copies, a complete list of which I have not yet found.

In the Cohen research archival material is a folder that contains the first 100 numbered invoices of purchasers of his book (there are actually 105 invoices as some numbers are duplicated). They accounted for 207 actual copies sold and covered the dates 1/8/1972 through 4/9/1972. The following table lists the purchasers and is an interesting piece of early copper history. A review of the names turned up many that should be of interest to EAC members. A copy of an original invoice and letter from a well-remembered EAC member is also included.

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<sup>20</sup> Letter to Howard Hazelcorn dated 2/1/1972

<sup>21</sup> Letter to Darwin Palmer, Jr. dated 1/12/1972



**Table of Invoices**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>EAC #</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Lee Thomas Cohen	Chevy Chase, MD	1		His mother!
2	Richard Picker	Albertson, NY	1		Dealer
3	Coins of Chevy Chase	Washington, DC	6		Dealer
4	Robinson S. Brown, Jr.	Louisville, KY	1	4	
5	John J. Ford, Jr.	New York, NY	1	324	
6	Charles S. Haas	Wilmington, DE	1	99	
7	Hugh Campbell	Santa Clara, CA	1	163	
8	Milton B. Pfeffer	New York, NY	1	6	
9	Jack O. Yeager	Mobile, AL	1	40	
10	J. Robert Parson	Mableton, GA	1	12	
11	Nathaniel A. Eaton	Stoneham, MA	1	148	
12	Douglas A. Weaver	Nappanee, IN	1	96	
13	Alan Meghrig	Los Angeles, CA	1	135	
14	Charles M. Wormser	New York, NY	1	399	New Netherlands Coin Co.
15	Norman Stack	New York, NY	10		Stack's
16	Penn Valley Coin Shoppe	Ardmore, PA	7		Coin Dealer
17	Catherine E. Bullowa	Philadelphia, PA	2		Coinhunter Coin Co.
18	Rosario "Sal" Zambuto	Ozone Park, NY	1	238	
19	Edwin R. Shapiro	New York, NY	1		
20	Kenneth W. Lee	Glendale, CA	2		
21	William K. Raymond	New York, NY	1		
22	Nova Coin & Stamp Shop	Washington, DC	7		Coin Dealer
23	William A. Selfridge	New York, NY	1		Harmer Rooke Numismatic
24	Q. David Bowers	Hollywood, CA	1	204	Bowers & Ruddy Galleries
25	Coin Dealer Newsletter	Hollywood, CA	1		
26	Don R. Frederick	Annandale, VA	1		
27	Pik-A-Book Store	St. Cloud, MN	3		Book Dealer
28	John A. Haggstrom	Omaha, NE	1		
29	Kenneth E. Bressett	Racine, WI	1		Whitman Publishing Co.
30	Silver City Coin Co.	Meriden, CT	3		Coin Dealer
31	Richard C. Marlor	Pennsauken, NJ	1	153	
32	Thomas D. Reynolds	Des Moines, IA	1	222	
33	Donald C. Stulken	Viroqua, WI	1		
34	Darwin B. Palmer, Jr.	Columbia, MO	1	68	
35	John A. McGeary	Vineland, NJ	1	183	
36	Donald Botteron	Syracuse, NY	1	201	
37	Jay M. Sklar	Oradell, NJ	1		
38	Leslie A. Johnson	Duluth, MN	1	186	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>EAC #</b>	<b>Comments</b>
39	Sam Ungar	Norfolk, VA	2	387	Lafayette Coin Shop
40	Frank & Laurese Katen	Silver Spring, MD	5		Book Dealer
41	The Old Roman, Inc.	Hicksville, NY	1		Coin Dealer
42	S. Sylvan Wanderman	New York, NY	1		Coin Dealer
42a	Michael A. Graham	Los Angeles, CA	1	234	
43	Willard Blaisdell	Elizabeth, NJ	1	20	
44	Stanley Apfelbaum	Albertson, NY	1	203	First Coinvestors, Inc.
45	Julius Reiver	Wilmington, DE	6	5	
46	Dane B. Nielsen	Van Nuys, CA	1	29	
47	Larry Eisenberger	Hannover, PA	1		
48	Thomas S. Katman	Oswego, NY	1	344	
49	Bill Schmidt	Laurel, MD	1		
50	Jesse M. Patrick	San Francisco, CA	1	230	
51	Hunters Pharmacy & Coins	Harper Woods, MI	7		Coin Dealer
51a	George N. Polis	Bethesda, MD	1	57	The Fugio Corporation
52	James H. Goudge	Van Nuys, CA	1	108	
53	Warren A. Lapp	Brooklyn, NY	1	33	
54	Bob Yuell	E. Brunswick, NJ	1	218	
55	Leonard K. Porter	Jackson, MI	1		
56	Harry Budd	Sharon Hill, PA	1		
56a	James H. Mackie	Huntington Beach, CA	1	352	
57	Ralph C. Langham	Peekskill, NY	7	178	Coin Dealer
58	Jesse M. Patrick	San Francisco, CA	7	230	2nd order
59	Aaron R. Feldman	New York, NY	7		
60	Lee Stonebraker	Rockville, MD	1		
61	Denis W. Loring	Somerville, MA	1	11	
62	Economical Wholesale Co.	Worcester, MA	125		Order cancelled
63	Charles R. Heisler, Inc.	Lancaster, PA	20		Distributor
64	Stuart's Coins	Boonville, MO	1		Coin Dealer
65	National Coin Studios	Minneapolis, MN	1		Coin Dealer
66	Mike Griffith	Atlanta, GA	1	255	
67	Phil Branson	Mary Esther, FL	1	233	
68	Raymond H. Chatham	Lawson, MO	1	47	
69	Scotchman Coins	St. Louis, MO	2		Coin Dealer
70	Murray Schwartz	Nyack, NY	1		
71	C. S. Lanham, Jr.	Arlington, VA	1		
72	Charles R. Hardy III	Springfield, PA	1		
73	Virginia's Coin Shop	Peoria, IL	1		Coin Dealer
74	Syracuse Coin & Supply	Syracuse, NY	7		Distributor
75	J. J. Teaparty Coin	Boston, MA	3		Coin Dealer

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>Books</b>	<b>EAC #</b>	<b>Comments</b>
76	Virginia's Coin Shop	Peoria, IL	1		2nd order
77	Harry W. Bass, Jr.	Dallas, TX	1		
78	Delbert E. Schmidt	St. Paul, NE	1		
79	Mason-Dixon Coin Exchange	Baltimore, MD	2		Coin Dealer
80	P & M Coin Sales	Fair Lawn, NJ	1		Coin Dealer
81	Henry Christensen, Inc.	Madison, NJ	1		Coin Dealer
82	Louis C. Sass	Miami, FL	1	276	
83	Joe Scherschel	Flint Hill, VA	1		
84	Joseph Kaczmar	Chicago, IL	1		
85	Paul W. Paterson	New Shrewsbury, NJ	1	103	
86	Roger P. Hurlburt, Jr.	Lexington, MA	1	73	
87	Stanley R. Trychel	Toledo, OH	1	104	
88	Brian Altman	Brighton, MA	1	106	
89	A. J. Modarelli	Akron, OH	1	118	
90	Richard Abel & Co.	Zion, IL	1		Coin Dealer
91	John W. Adams	Boston, MA	1	66	
92	Ralph C. Langham	Peekskill, NY	7	178	2nd order
93	House of Stuart, Ltd.	Kansas City, KS	1		Coin Dealer
94	Richard B. Knight	Winchester, MA	1	245	
95	C. F. Gordon, Jr.	Inverness, FL	1	39	
96	William H. Roberson, Jr.	Lake Park, FL	1		
97	Terry Lee Imports	Fort Lauderdale, FL	1		Coin Dealer
98	Ye Olde Book Shoppe	Newark, NJ	3		Book Dealer
99	Quality Coins	Randalstown, MD	1		Coin Dealer
100	Robert Shalowitz	Baltimore, MD	1	260	
100a	Richard Gross	Baltimore, MD	1		
100b	Sam Stein	Baltimore, MD	1		

INVOICE NO. 53

CUSTOMER'S ORDER

DATE

1/18/72

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731 EAST 22ND ST  
BROOKLYN NY 11210

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Paid By Check								

Rediform®

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INVOICE

WARREN A. LAPP, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
731 EAST 22ND STREET  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11210

January 15, 1972

Dear Roger:

I am enclosing my check for \$13.50 in payment for your book on half cents which arrived Thursday. I insist that you let me pay you for my copy.

I am accepting the other copy in behalf of EAC for the library collection, and will forward it the next day or so to John Wright for inclusion in the EAC Library. John is the Librarian. I thought that I would also ask John to review your book and will include it in the next issue of P-W. Even the first book arrived too late to get it out for review and in time to enter the review into the Jan. 15 issue. Bill Smith's review will be in the Jan. 15 issue, however.

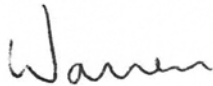
I am very much impressed by your work and am happy to add your book to my numismatic library. You have done a lot of work in compiling the history, data, etc. and the end result is quite an improvement over all past books on half cents. No doubt you're going to be the new Dr. Sheldon for the little sisters!

Enjoyed meeting you and your son at the EAC meeting on December 30....sorry that we didn't get more time to chat but I had promised to see that Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. Paschal got a ride home.

P-W should be arriving shortly and this issue looks like a very good one, and there is a lot of excellent material on hand already for the March 15 issue. Getting material in early is wonderful....saves a lot of last minute work.

Take care. Best wishes for a healthy and happy and prosperous 1972.

Regards,



Over the next 10 years the book continued to sell steadily, with Roger having to tell customers that he was "sold out" before he published his second edition in 1982. According to letters in his collection, there were 1400 copies left in 1973<sup>22</sup>, he financially broke even in 1975<sup>23</sup>, there were 400 copies left in 1976<sup>24</sup>, and only 36 copies remained in 1981<sup>25</sup>. Cohen considered the production and selling of his book a "full-

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<sup>22</sup> Weber letter *op cit*

<sup>23</sup> Letter to John Wright dated 10/25/1976

<sup>24</sup> Letter to John Cogan dated 10/25/1976

<sup>25</sup> Letter to Andrew S. Rosen dated 10/23/1981



time job in my spare time”<sup>26</sup>, and for his second edition published in 1982, his book was sold through a distributor.

I will present an exhibit this spring at the EAC Convention in Buffalo on some of the literature and material surrounding the numismatic career of Roger Cohen. As the years pass, the EAC members who knew Roger become fewer. If anyone has stories or information about Roger that they would be willing to share with me, I will be an eager listener. Look me up at the convention, email me at [rskdrk1985@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rskdrk1985@sbcglobal.net) or call me at 314-821-9974.



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<sup>26</sup> Letter to R. W. Julian dated 11/19/1972

## THE NIGHT BEFORE EAC

Nathan Markowitz

Original May 10, 2011  
Restrike version May 19, 2011

Twass the night before EAC  
And all through the house

Not a creature was stirring  
Not even my computer mouse

The coppers were jacketed  
And all put to bed

As visions of new choice cents  
Danced round collectors heads

For soon all the copper weenies  
Would meet in one place

And share stories and noshings  
Until blue in the face

Scrapping and haggling  
With their limited funds

They rejoice with each purchase  
If even just one

As security gets settled  
For their first night's watch

The boys of 94 peruse coppers  
Drinking single malt scotch

Indeed owning the best coins  
Does not define success

Rather camaraderie and learning  
Clearly delineate the best

The best of what drives us  
To return here each year

And sit with fellow collectors  
Drinking beer after beer

And now home to spouses we go  
With wallets so light

Until tradition repeats next year  
To all a good night.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REGION 7 EAC MEETING AT LONG BEACH

Bryan Yamasaki

A Region 7 EAC meeting was held at the Long Beach Coin Expo on Friday, February 3, and began promptly at 7:00 PM. Twelve members attended. As per tradition, each member stated his or her name and briefly described their numismatic interests. There was no new business other than the announcement that the January issue of *Penny-Wise* had been released. No one had yet received their copy as of the coin show. Dan Demeo reminded everyone to bring their passports, if they planned to visit Niagara Falls on the Canadian side during the 2012 Buffalo, NY, EAC Convention.

Bill Noyes then gave a stimulating presentation of the historical and numismatic events leading up to the recent discovery (or perhaps rediscovery) by Tom Deck of what is now called the 1825 Newcomb 5 large cent. Bill provided each attendee a handout containing pictures (obverse and reverse) and attribution guide of the 1825 N5. Bill, and others, now believe that Tom's coin is probably "an example of the long unknown die combination called A-5 (N5) by Frank Andrews in his seminal work on 1816-57 large cents written in the 1880's." It appears that Mr. Andrews has finally been vindicated nearly 130 years later! Questions and comments concerning the 1825 N5 (mainly from Gary Rosner and Julian Leidman) followed the presentation. So far, no other examples of the 1825 N5 have been found, including in a check of Numistudy.

John Duff asked about a coin with holes in the center, and this led to a discussion, mainly by Bill Noyes, regarding the many alternative uses of large cents such as clock gears, tools (screwdrivers), jewelry, and even toys. The conversation then morphed into an introductory discussion about English Conder Tokens.

Overall, it was a fun evening as Bill Noyes is a natural teacher and walking numismatic encyclopedia. Thanks, Bill for putting on a great presentation on short notice. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

#### *Attendees*

Gary Rosner	Los Angeles, CA	Jim McGuigan	Pittsburgh, PA
Nancy Yamasaki	Long Beach, CA	Doug Bird	Hermosa Beach, CA
Phil Moore	Northridge, CA	Ron Shintaku	Long Beach, CA
Tom Reynolds	Omaha, NE	John Duff	Los Angeles, CA
Bill Noyes	Cape Cod, MA	Julian Leidman	MD
Dan Demeo	Torrance, CA	Bryan Yamasaki	Long Beach, CA

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## **2012 EAC CONVENTION LARGE CENT HAPPENING**

David Johnson

The 2012 annual Large Cent Happening will start right after the reception on Thursday evening. Monitors and members planning to exhibit coins, please plan on arriving as early as possible, so that we may get table assignments and exhibitor registration paperwork completed in time to start.

Raw coins get handled at Happenings. If you are one that does not want his/her coin to be handled, please plan on bringing your coin in an air-tite or similar protective holder where the coin can be adequately viewed.

I am happy to announce the selections the 2012 Large Cent Happening in Buffalo. All of the selections are first timers for a Happening, except the '22 N9, which was last seen in 1999.

**1794 S-39.** “Marred Field” R6. Seen with a light reverse crack progressing to a heavy crack. Later heavy reverse buckling in the final die state.

**1802 S-241 R1.** Stemless. Double Fraction bar. Dropped last S in STATES. Obverse clashing, and several nice die states here, from perfect to reverse with breaks above OF and then in the terminal die state another break above TATE.

**1812 S-291 R2.** Again, some nice die variations with clashing and various stages of obverse cracks.

**1817-N17 R4.** Various stages of reverse die cracks and a reverse break at TATES in the final state.

**1822 N-9 R5-** Various stages of reverse die cracks... to a rim break at TES

**1846 N-15. R4.** A neat late date variety exhibiting obverse and reverse cracks, including a retained CUD and CUD breaks.

It’s important to note that the Happening is not just about seeing the best and highest graded coins (although that’s fun), but also about having the opportunity to view all the cool die states and stages lined-up together. If you have interesting or tough die states to share, please plan on bringing them to the Happening.

Thanks to all for the many great responses received. Choosing the top six wasn’t easy, but hopefully all will enjoy seeing the above varieties at the 2012 Happening. I appreciate your taking the time to submit suggestions.

LASTLY. I need more helpers to pull this off. Monitors and someone to help out at the sign-up table. Please contact me at [davidjohnson1798@gmail.com](mailto:davidjohnson1798@gmail.com).

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## 2012 HALF CENT HAPPENING VARIETIES

Mike Spurlock

Here are the varieties for the 2012 Half Cent Happening in Buffalo. This is the 27<sup>th</sup> year of Half Cent Happenings. How many of you have attended all of them? The varieties selected this year have not been viewed for at least 20 years, and some have never been part of the Happenings. We will run the gamut from common to very rare. Most collectors should have a variety or two, so please bring yours.

The Happening will start right after the Reception on Thursday evening. Please come as early as possible if you have coins to show. Please have your coins in a holder if you do not want them to be handled or drooled upon. Due to the fact that we have two varieties with edge lettering this year, we are considering disqualifying any coin brought in an independent grading service,s slab. Any coins brought in slabs are also subject to being released from captivity. (Just kidding, Jim!)

**1794 C1b:** According to my records, we have not specifically selected a vaunted “B” Girl for a Happening. We needed to remedy that glaring oversight, so I chose the most common (oxymoron) of the 1794 edge letter variants. The 1794 C1b has commonly been judged to be a Rarity 6, but my research over the past few years has identified 35 examples. By my

reckoning, that now makes the coin a Rarity 5+; still a very hard coin to locate. Oh, and half of the known population grades VG or less, so don't be afraid to bring an ugly one!

**1795 C2a:** This variety was last seen in the Happening of 1987. This is a very aesthetically pleasing variety of half cent and is a Redbook variety known as the "Punctuated Date, with Lettered Edge." Because of this, some of the nicest examples of the variety have been captured by members of the Evil Empire commonly known as Type Collectors. The coin is estimated to be a R3 so there are still plenty to go around. There are a couple of really rare die states, so bring them if you have them.

**1804 C1:** This variety has not been seen at a Happening since 1992. Twenty-five years ago, this coin was thought to be a R5. Many more have been found and it is now considered to be R3. Most examples of this variety are below Very Fine. It is also very hard to find a choice one.

**1805 C3:** This variety was last seen in the Happening of 1987. The coin is considered to be R4, but see how long it takes to find a Choice one! Finding a coin with nice color and/or surfaces is almost a Herculean task. If you bring a choice one, be prepared to receive several on-the-spot purchase offers! Most specimens are in low or very low grade, so don't leave your ugly ones at home.

**1828 C1:** This variety has never been seen at a Happening. This is a common coin, but an uncirculated coin with red is very hard to locate. If you have an example of the EDS of this coin, please bring it. Most will not have seen one before.

**1852 Proofs:** The 1852 proofs have never been seen at a Happening. The Original Strikes with four large berries are exceedingly rare. There are over 100 examples of Restrikes with small berries, some of which are obviously from a later striking of the same two dies. The reverse seems to have been used to strike most of the rest of the first restrikes, although nobody knows exactly when that occurred. Certainly it occurred on more than one occasion, prior to 1869 when the dies were confiscated and destroyed. (Thanks to Rick Coleman, "official" keeper of knowledge of proof half cents, for the above information.)

Please e-mail me at [halfcent1@yahoo.com](mailto:halfcent1@yahoo.com), or call me at 479-880-6435 if you can help out at the Happening.

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## COLONIAL HAPPENING AT EAC, BUFFALO

The COLONIAL HAPPENING has typically been a social time where we share coins we have brought along for discussion. This year, with the convention being not too far (but not walking distance) from Machin's Mills in NY, I'd like to ask those attending to bring along their Machin's coins for study. AND, I'd like to ask everyone to bring any colonial item (paper or coin or medal or exonumia) for study too. These items can be an unusual die state, die error, unusual planchet, a new acquisition, a coin you have questions about... bring anything. But please attend, whether you bring something or not.

Are you concerned about others handling your coins? *Don't be!* We set up a projector and camera and just project the image on a screen so everyone sees the coin and can comment. The



quality of the images are excellent and we can see even fine details. So please attend on Thursday night and prepare to enjoy an informal time of colonial numismatic fun. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Ray Williams  
609-587-5929  
[njraywms@optonline.net](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net)

PS Those attending the other Happenings are welcome to duck in and out as you have the time to do so. All are welcome!

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## **BUFFALO 2012 EAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

Nathan Markowitz

On behalf of the Early American Coppers Club all attendees are invited to attend the educational presentations outlined below. Please note that this year we will not have a formal Friday evening program, but will send off our membership to an open evening after a musical presentation by Niagara County deputy historian Ron Cary. I look forward to seeing you all in Buffalo.

*Friday May 4, 2012*

Noon: Mark Borckardt: "When Was the War of 1812?"

1PM: Greg Heim: "The Reality of Die Variety/Marriage Attribution"

2PM: Howard Spencer Pitkow: "My Sojourn in China and Hong Kong—Acquiring Counterfeit U.S. Copper Large Cents"

3PM: Bill Eckberg: "Men at Work: The Mint in 1793"

4PM: Steve Carr: "Misaligned Die Large Cents"

5:30PM Ronald Cary: "18<sup>th</sup> Century Tavern Music of the Niagara Frontier"

Music presentation with cash bar

*Saturday, May 5, 2012*

Noon: Franklin Noel: "Coinage, Sovereignty, and The Birth of The Republic"

1PM: John Kraljevich: "Money and Medals of Early Upstate New York"

2PM: Chuck Heck: "The Buffalo Copper Connection"

3PM: Mark Borckardt: "Who Am I?: An Interactive Numismatic Seminar"

4PM: Pete Smith: "The Starred Reverse Cent and 1792 Half Dime: Conducting Pedigree Research with Current Resources"

\* \* \* \* \*

Convention Co-Chair Nick Gampietro reminds members attending the Buffalo Convention who desire pickups at the airport, to contact him with their arrival times, flight numbers, and cell phone numbers. He may be reached at [ngampietro57@yahoo.com](mailto:ngampietro57@yahoo.com), or at (716) 359-6041.

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## **BOYS OF 94 IN BUFFALO NY – MAY 2, 2012**

Chuck Heck

There is still room for several more people to attend the Wednesday evening event. We will meet at 4:30 in the lobby area of the hotel and travel to the Buffalo Erie County Historical Society for a 5pm viewing of their 1794 (and other) Large Cents. Afterwards the meeting will continue back the Adams Mark hotel where food and drinks and some interesting “stuff” will be shown.

Bring anything of 1794 interest and we will be sure to photo, discuss, and display anything you like.

Remember --- if you love 1794 Large Cents you should come to this event. People have said “But I’m not a Boy of 94”! All it takes is LOVE! If you love 1794 Large Cents, then you are a Boy of 94.

To reserve a spot call me at 561-628-5345 or e-mail me at [check48@comcast.net](mailto:check48@comcast.net).

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## **ADDITIONAL HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES IN BUFFALO**

Scott Barrett

In addition to the many opportunities listed in the January *Penny-Wise* (see "What to Do in Buffalo, New York," pp. 33-37), we have now firmed up the history tour for Friday, May 4. This will include Cobblestone architecture and the Erie Canal. We will depart Buffalo at 9:30 AM and arrive at the Cobblestone Museum complex in Albion at 10:30 AM. Transportation is available with a van provided by Nick Gampietro, or perhaps in rental cars, depending on how many people sign up.

The tour of the Cobblestone Museum complex will be hosted by Deborah Brundage, the Museum Director, see <http://www.cobblestonemuseum.org/>. That will take about 90 minutes. Following that, we can break for lunch at the Village Inn (a three minute walk from the museum), or go directly to the next portion of the tour where Bill Lattin, the Orleans County Historian, will take us back through Medina, showing us Cobblestone homes and parts of the Canal. We'll go along the Canal from Medina to Lockport. We'll conclude in Lockport; from there, people can choose to go back to Buffalo or head north to see Niagara Falls. Please note that if you're planning on going to Niagara Falls, Ontario, you must have a passport.

Please contact Scott Barrett for further information and to sign up for the tour. E-mail [lawman3212@aol.com](mailto:lawman3212@aol.com) or cell phone 317-431-1249.

In addition, I'd like to call your attention to the fact that Buffalo is the home of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, a world-class art museum. Their collection includes one of Edward Hicks's paintings of *Peaceable Kingdom*, circa 1848. See <http://www.albrightknox.org> for additional details on this masterwork, as well as for further details of the gallery's collection. I'd encourage you to visit!

See you in Buffalo!

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#### **IN MEMORIAM: HANK SPANGENBERGER, EAC #2816**

Long time Dayton-Kettering Coin Club member and nationally prominent numismatist Hank Spangenberg passed away on March 7, 2012. He was 79. Hank considered himself a collector of anything unusual, interesting, or rare with the professional title of Numismatist. His interest in coins surfaced as a youngster when he joined the Dayton Coin Club in 1947 and he continued in this career for the remainder of his life.

He was a lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association, and past Historian for the ANA. He received the "Writer's Award" from the Numismatic Literary Guild. He was also a member of The Rittenhouse Society and won the Numismatic Ambassador's Award. President Ford appointed Spangenberg to the 1976 Assay Commission, the first Daytonian to receive this honor in the 184 year history of the commission.

He was preceded in death by his wife of nearly thirty years, Marcia Gastineau. He is survived by his brother John Spangenberg; John's son Richard and daughter Sue Frisbee; Henry's sons: Douglas, Matthew, and Gregory; his daughter, Heather and son-in-law Tom Murray. Their children, Meghan, Jason, and Jacob, and by his long time friend and companion Phyllis Thompson.

--Heath MacAlpine.

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#### **IN MEMORIAM: HERMAN HALPERN, EAC #2226**

I just learned that Herman Halpern died sometime in August 2011. I met Herman 15-20 years ago in a coffee shop in Ridgewood, New Jersey. He noticed my reading a coin publication at the counter and a great friendship was born. I unfortunately found him a few years after his large cent collection had been auctioned off, but his stories of the late '70s and early to mid '80s were priceless.

These stories included Del Bland, Dennis Loring, Ted Naftzger, Doug Smith, Tony Terranova, Norman Stack, Robbie Brown and others I can't remember. I was a good listener and probably should have taken notes because I knew this day would come, and it's now all lost. He was a great gentleman and a fantastic storyteller. I was amazed he could remember all the little things he related in these stories. Most of these conversations took place inside his Irish pub in NYC. I guess one of his best accountings was that of buying the 1794 cents from Harold Bareford's collection. He would invariably buy coins he couldn't afford and would borrow to pay for these

coins. This would drive his wife, Dove, crazy--but he was right, usually. He amassed a wonderful collection of large pennies as he called them, only to auction them off in March, 1988. We've lost a great and wonderful man. He leaves his wife of many years, Dove, as well as a son and daughter and many grandchildren.

--Victor Figlar

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### **IN MEMORIAM: EUGENE C. BRAIG III, EAC #445**

Gene Braig passed away on Monday January 16th, after a long battle with COPD related disease. He is survived by his son Eugene and grandchildren who reside in Columbus, Ohio, where Eugene does ecological research at The Ohio State University. Gene was well known for his die state studies of the C-6 Half Cent reverse cuds and his interest in Half Cent and Magic Tokens.

--Bob Bowser

Many of us have lost a friend. Eugene C. Braig III, age 69, of North Ridgeville, Ohio, passed away Monday January 16, 2012 at Center Ridge Health Campus after suffering many years with chronic lung disease. He was born in Palo Alto, CA, and had resided in North Ridgeville the past 23 years after living in Cleveland. He earned his master's degree in business administration from Baldwin Wallace College. Gene was a member of numerous local & national collectors' associations, and was a Pinball enthusiast. He retired in 1998 from General Motors where he had worked in Financial Administration at the Elyria, Parma and Michigan plants. Surviving are his son, Eugene C. (Donna) Braig IV of Columbus; daughter-in-law Kim Braig of Sullivan; grandchildren, Eugene V, Aurora, Brandon and Connor. He was preceded in death by his parents Eugene II and Frances Braig, son Michael and grandson Michael Braig Jr.

--David Consolo

I regret to inform the copper fraternity that Gene Braig passed away on Monday Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. His obituary can be found at the attached link : <http://hosting-13309.tributes.com/show/eugene-c.-braig-93134145>

Gene was an advanced collector of half cents and was a recognized expert on them as well as other areas of numismatics and exnumia. He was a contributor to Cohen's text on half cents and was a fixture at the EAC conventions. In recent years his health precluded him from attending EAC and other coin shows. May he rest in peace.

--Terry Stahurski

I first met Gene in St. Louis in 1992. We attended the EAC Convention in St. Louis that year. I purchased Norweb I:24 from Ed Kucia, who had it on consignment from Gene. That interested Gene. He could not stand to not know the person who had purchased such a cherry! He also showed me at least three '05 C-2s the next day. That caught my interest.

Anyway, as it turned out, one of the other Norweb coins that I tried to purchase that day was Norweb I: 22, the '96 no pole. McGuigan would not sell it to me. I was stunned. Much later, I found out that Gene was selling some other pieces, including the one I had purchased, in order to cover his purchase of the '96. And so the web began to weave itself. Many years later, I tried to sell the '96 on Gene's behalf to its current new owner.

There are very few key people in the half cent world. Gene was key for both me and one or two other serious half cent collectors. He plucked some key pieces from the Norweb sale. Just a nice VG will do, especially when it is a '97 C-3c. His collection, some of which passed through my hands, now anchors other half cent collections.

I will miss my cranky old friend. I spoke to him about a month before he passed. He was suffering badly, both mentally and physically. He told me that he had not been out of the house for over a year.

I will cherish the civil war token he sent to me—free. It looks like a half cent. I never even heard of one before I got it. He is in the provenance.

--Rick Coleman

## **REMEMBERING GENE BRAIG**

Mike Packard

My friend Gene Braig died last January 16<sup>th</sup> at age 69. I'm not certain when I first met Gene, but I am sure it must have been in 1978 or 1979 at a Suburban Washington Coin Show held quarterly at a hotel in New Carrollton, Md. Gene was a member of what I termed the "Cleveland Posse." He, Gino Sanfillipo, Terry Starhurski, and Ed Kucia would regularly drive together from the Cleveland Ohio area to the show, scour the floor for nice half cents, tokens, and whatever else caught their fancies, and attend the EAC regional meetings. Gene always seemed to find a nice, or rare, or nice AND rare half cent.

He usually carried a box of duplicates of mostly nice coins, some rare, that he offered at prices I could not initially afford. However, through the years I purchased several coins from him. Most, I neither need nor want to upgrade. A couple, I will probably end up losing money on, but that is not really Gene's doing. I paid the going rate for a couple of lower grade rare coins that turned out to be more common than we thought in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Many of the new discoveries were nicer than the examples I purchased, and the values of my pieces have declined to more appropriate levels. Such is the nature of collecting. We buy pieces for the enjoyment they bring, and even if we end up losing money when we sell them, most of the value we derive from them is in that enjoyment. Any financial gains are a secondary concern, at least for many of us.

Gene was occasionally difficult to deal with. I recall one instance where he and a buyer had reached agreement on the price of a coin Gene had for sale, but then Gene refused to accept the collector's check. It was not that Gene did not take checks or that he thought this check was bad, it was because the check was essentially a cash advance on the buyer's credit card. Gene did not believe people should buy coins on credit. It did not matter that the buyer said he would pay the card balance in full at the end of the month; Gene was not going to abet the now-no-longer buyer

in living beyond his means. While Gene often drove hard bargains when selling, he would also sell coins and supplies quite reasonably if it helped out someone of modest means.

Gene was a very astute collector whose knowledge benefited him with many cherry picks of rare varieties or die states. If you showed him a coin, he would often explain the finer points of variety or die state attribution. Gene loved die states, especially those of the 1804 C-6, whose reverse die crumbled in stages around its lower and right edges. Gene expanded on the works of Gilbert, Tom Katman, and Breen to identify the reverse die states of the C-6. (See his article, "Reverse Die State Progression of the 1804 G-8, C6, B6 Half Cent," in *Penny-Wise*, Vol. XXIV, No.3, May 1990, pp. 126-137.) He always wanted to own an example of Breen states XV and XVI (with the cud over OF extending to the F and covering the OF, respectively) but he could never find any. Finally, he had several examples made (cast counterfeits) of the Breen state XVI, so he and his friends could have an example for their collections.

Gene usually had a twinkle in his eye and was something of an imp. He liked to play little mind games with people just to see what their reactions might be. For example, if we were having a grading exercise at the regional meeting, Gene might grade a coin 10 points higher or 15 points lower than the average grade. When asked why, he would say that was how he saw the coin TODAY. Tomorrow he might (and often did) grade it differently. I viewed these antics as Gene having fun, but also as Gene telling us to enjoy our coins and to not get too caught up in whether your coin graded higher or lower than someone else's. Grading is subjective, and as we have found out numerous times at Half Cent Happenings, different people look for different characteristics in their coins, be it color, surface, strike, die state, or whatever. Above all, Gene seemed to want to have fun with his hobby.

Back at the 1986 EAC convention, Joe Kane and Bill Weber organized the first of what has become an annual convention event, the Half Cent Happening. Gene, along with many other half cent collectors, always participated if he was in attendance. While R. Tettenhorst and Jim McGuigan tended to share top honors for the most desirable coin for most of the varieties shown, Gene's example would often be judged third or fourth most desirable and occasionally first or second. Gene loved to share his enjoyment of half cents with others.

Gene was a heavy smoker, and that bad habit was the cause of his early death. He developed emphysema about a decade ago, but decided he enjoyed smoking too much to give it up. As his condition grew worse, he traveled to fewer and fewer shows. I think I saw him only 3-4 times in the last decade. Still, I would look through his box of duplicates and bought a few. He sold his coins, duplicates and first line set, privately several years ago. I learned a lot from Gene. I am sorry he is gone, and I will miss him.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Braig Library to Benefit EAC**

The attached list of Books & Catalogs is from our friend Gene Braig's Library. Many books contain Gene's penciled notes. I am working with Gene's Family to see that the profits of the sale of these items are donated to EAC to promote the mission of EAC, as the Board sees fit.

Please review the list, reserve your copy via e-mail ([dbconsolo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbconsolo@sbcglobal.net)) indicating that your check (payable to David Consolo) is on the way and that you will subsequently pick up the



item at EAC, Buffalo; OR, that you want me to mail the item(s) to you, including \$5.00 for postage. Please put "Braig" on the Message line of your e-mail.

<i>Copper Quotes by Robinson #1-18 complete</i>	49.00
PLUS Misc. issues (11, total) fun to study / review prices	3.00
Red, new, hard bound <i>US HALF CENTS – GILBERT</i> (orig. 1916) combined with <i>COINAGE OF 1973 CENTS AND HALF CENTS</i> (orig. 1897) -SS CROSBY	25.00
1 X Breen <i>Encyclopedia of US Half cents</i> Red, new	35.00
Breen's <i>Encyclopedia of US Colonial &amp; Proof Coins</i> , new	55.00
1 X <b>HARD BOUND</b> , new, <i>Cohen Collection of Half Cents</i> catalog, Superior '92, original cost \$150, with plates & receipt of Braig	100.00
1X <i>Penny Whimsy</i> , like new w/ cover	49.00

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New Book, <i>The Copper Coins of Massachusetts</i> H. Ryder	15.00
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#### CATALOGS: LARGE CENTS

2009	The Ted Naftzger Collection of Mid Dates Part II, Goldberg	4.00
2009	The Dan Holmes Collection of Early Dates, Part I, Goldberg	4.00
2011	“ “ “ “ of Late Dates, Part III	4.00

#### CATALOG: HALF CENTS

2011	The Whister Collection of Half Cents , Goldberg	8.00
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#### CATALOGS: COMBINED & MISCELLANEOUS COPPERS

1996	The Scott Barnes Sale, U.S. Colonials	5.00
1995	TWO(2) The John M. Griffie Sale U.S. Colonials, w/ The First Annual 4-C Convention Sale, CVM & Grellman	5.00



## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following persons have applied for membership in EAC since the last issue of *Penny-Wise*. Provided that no adverse comments on any particular individual are received by the Membership Committee before the July 2012 issue of *P-W*, all will be declared elected to full membership at that time. Chairman of the Membership Committee is Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

<i>Name</i>	<i>City, State</i>	<i>Member Number</i>
Mark Nanney	Tucson, AZ	6061
Steven Miller	New York, NY	6062
David Page	Pierre, SD	6063
Allen Beiler	New Holland, PA	6064
Ray Sierra	Tampa, FL	6065
Matt Draiss	Athens, NY	6066J
Steven Small	Ontario, CA	6067
Angelito Cruz	Albuquerque, NM	6068J
Alan Cary	Reedley, CA	6069
Joan Cline	New Market, TN	6070
Robert Mook	Washington, DC	6071
Justin Teoh	Lincroft, NJ	6072
Jerry Wendel	Columbia, MO	6073
Timothy Betterly	Dover, DE	6074
Christopher F. Pretsch	Pittsburgh, PA	6075
Eric Whetstone	Arlington, TX	6076
Keith Holler	Erie, PA	6077
George Hoffmeister	Beaver Crossing, NE	6078
Andrew Cignatta	Guildford, CT	6079

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## TWO CLAPP--ANS CENTS RESURFACE

Bob Grellman

While cataloging the J. R. Frankenfield collection of Half Cents and Large Cents in 2000 I discovered two cents that appeared to be from among the many pieces allegedly stolen by Dr. Sheldon from the Clapp-ANS collection. These were a 1794 S-56, Noyes photo #27957 (Foster Lardner, B. Max Mehl 6/1930:15-Dr. William H. Sheldon, Stack's 10/38:289-Clapp-ANS-Dr. Sheldon 4/19/72-R. E. Naftzger, Jr., NN 11/73:377-Dr. Edward Bush-Myles Z. Gerson-Denis Loring-Jack Robinson (privately) 1988-J. R. Frankenfield); and an 1803 S-243, Noyes photo #20692 (Henry C. Hines-T. James Clarke-James O. Sloss, Abe Kosoff 10/21/59:76-R. E. Naftzger, Jr., 1990 EAC Sale, lot 66-J. R. Frankenfield). I returned these two cents to J.R. and they were replaced with inferior examples in his auction (McCawley & Grellman Auctions/Superior 2/17/2001). J.R. elected to retain the two cents, and he passed away on January 24, 2011.

In early 2011 I was contacted by Eric Frankenfield, J.R.'s son, and was asked to appraise the remaining coins in J.R.'s estate, which included an extensive collection of small cents through silver dollars (these were sold in the 1-2 September 2011 Goldberg auction). At that time I told Eric about the two suspected Clapp-ANS cents. After a bit of searching he discovered both pieces in a box of coins sold sight-unseen to Eric by J.R. years earlier. On each envelope J.R. had written "throw in ocean." If you knew J.R., then you know he wasn't kidding.

I explained the ANS-Sheldon-Naftzger saga to Eric and he agreed to have me work with the ANS to resolve the issue and keep the coins out of the ocean. What we were looking for was a determination of whether or not one or both pieces was from the original Clapp donation to the museum, and if so we wanted a simple exchange for the "switched-in" coin(s).

To that end I contacted the ANS and began the process, which took quite a bit of time. We wanted a guarantee from the ANS that they would provide the "switched-in" coin in return for a Clapp-ANS coin. With that in hand I mailed the coins to the person handling the issue for the ANS, their Deputy Director, Andrew Meadows.

The determination came quickly: both were from the Clapp-ANS collection. But there was no "switched-in" coin for the S-56. Revealed in a subsequent letter from ANS, "According to the terms of the settlement reached between ANS and Naftzger, ANS was paid the market value of this coin and in return relinquished claim to title to the coin. We therefore propose to return this coin to you unencumbered, unless your client would care to consider a donation to the ANS."

The now-unencumbered Clapp-ANS 1794 S-56 and the "switched-in" 1803 S-243 were received by me via FedEx on 31 January. The ANS retains the original Clapp-ANS 1803 S-243. It's a win-win, and I believe J.R. would have approved of the outcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SOLVING A COUNTERSTAMP MYSTERY

Bill Groom

Who among us doesn't enjoy a good mystery? As a kid, come Saturday afternoon, I can recall watching those old, black and white Sherlock Holmes and Charlie Chan movies on TV. Years later, it was Columbo and CSI that beckoned; somewhere between which, I discovered the mystery of counterstamps. For those of us who relish these curious coins, it's the mystery that largely draws our attention; and too, the possibility of solving that mystery.

A few years ago, I acquired a Hard Times token (HT-216) that displayed one **G. BRIGGS** counterstamp. Brunk listed this or a similar, unattributed mark in 2003, B-1098, on an 1831 half dollar. No picture of this mark was published. Rulau didn't list this mark. "Briggs" is a relatively common name within 1800's city directories. While the "G" likely stood for George, there were certainly other possibilities. Consequently, the specimen shown here remained unattributed for some time in my collection .... Until now, that is!



In 2011, I managed to locate another example of the **G. BRIGGS** counterstamp on an early Canadian copper. This mark was accompanied by additional counterstamps: **S. HAWES. / PATENT. / STEEL.**

Notice the **G. BRIGGS** counterstamp below the Hawes markings on this early Canadian token. Might Briggs have lived and worked in South Shaftsbury, Vermont, too? Was there a business connection between Hawes and Briggs? Answers to these questions then offered the possibility of solving the identity of G. BRIGGS.

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The host is an 1813 Nova Scotia halfpenny token that is well worn. Silas Hawes was out of business by 1828, and the counterstamp was likely applied during or prior to that year. Yet, it could have been applied at a later date. Dating the application of a counterstamp, is a matter of guesswork and probability.

According to the “*Directory of American Toolmakers*”, Silas Hawes was an early maker of steel squares in South Shaftsbury, Vermont. This counterstamp matches markings found on Silas Hawes’ squares.

Following the close of the War of 1812, Silas Hawes got the idea of making carpenter’s squares out of steel. He proceeded to gather old, worn out saws from the surrounding area and forge them into durable, steel squares. He enlisted the services of a local blacksmith named Stephen Whipple to form the squares on his anvil. Whipple’s shop had a water-powered trip-hammer that was utilized for the production. Hawes then sold the squares to traveling peddlers who retailed them for six or seven dollars, apiece; this, a being quite a hefty price in those days. This early success lead to a patent, and Hawes became the first manufacturer of these tools in the U.S.; and, quite, possibly, the world. Other factories sprung up in the Shaftsbury area, manufacturing the Hawes’ patent.

The information about Hawes was found in the “History of Bennington County, Vt.” published in 1889. The text further related that George Briggs and one David Allen were successors to Silas Hawes in 1828. Thus, the mystery of the G. BRIGGS counterstamp is now solved.

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As something of a postscript, this all lead to the solution of yet another counterstamp mystery. Brunk lists two closely matched **D.J. GEORGE** counterstamped large cents, G-174 and G-175. While both of those specimens display an eagle pictorial, one also reads **CAST STEEL**. Brunk didn’t publish a photo of either one, nor did he attribute them in 2003. My recent find, pictured below, is most likely that of the same issuer.



As was the case with Hawes and Briggs, one Dennis J. George is also noted in the “History of Bennington County, Vt.” published in 1889. He reportedly founded the Eagle Square Company in 1859 and became its president upon incorporation in 1864. Note the above “eagle” logo, impressed upon the cent’s obverse; this, as was also applied to the company’s squares. A patent search reveals that George patented three machines for graduating and making steel squares; this, between 1849-54. The **D.J. GEORGE** counterstamp was applied to his products; perhaps too, his machinery and/or his working tools. The use of counterstamped dates, in this case the **1854** date, is often associated with a patent. The use of dates/years is often a clue for those of us who seek to attribute these counterstamped coins.

To sum up, there are now three issuers of counterstamps, a succession of square-makers, that are attributed to South Shaftsbury, Vermont. All played important roles in the early industrial and social development of that area. The Hawes' counterstamp, which dates to his working years, makes this one of the earliest pieces of Vermont exonomia extant. Then too, it's quite possible that the Briggs counterstamp is of Hard Times vintage. Should no later dated host coins with the Briggs counterstamp surface in the future, its eventual placement within the Hard Times token series is quite likely. Hmmm ... another mystery awaits.

\* \* \* \* \*

## HOW BIG IS TOO BIG?

Mark Borckardt

The Mint Act of April 2, 1792 specified that the one cent coin would contain 264 grains of pure copper, equal to 17.1069 grams. David Rittenhouse, Henry Voigt, and other Mint officers quickly realized that the specified weight would create an exceptionally large coin.

Pure copper has a density of 8.94 grams per cubic centimeter. Therefore, the specified weight yields a volume (weight divided by density) of 1.9135 cubic centimeters. At the 1792 standard, a copper planchet with a thickness of 0.175 centimeter will have a surface area (volume divided by thickness) of 10.9343 square centimeters. Using the formula for area of a circle ( $\pi$  times  $r$  squared), the theoretical radius of the planchet, 1.866 centimeters, gives a diameter of 3.732 centimeters, or 37.3 mm.

How does that size compare to a standard coin that is familiar to most collectors today?

Morgan silver dollars have a diameter of 3.81 centimeters and weight of 26.73 grams. Since standard coin silver (90% silver, 10% copper) has a density of 10.335 grams per cubic centimeter, the volume of a Morgan dollar is 2.0045 cubic centimeters. Using the formula for area of a circle, the surface area of a Morgan dollar is 11.4009 square centimeters. The thickness is equal to volume divided by area, or 0.1758 centimeter (1.758 millimeter).

One cent coin at 1792 Mint Standard: 37.3 mm. diameter x 1.75 mm. thick.

Morgan silver dollar: 38.1 mm. diameter x 1.76 mm. thick.

Imagine for a moment that the large cents we collect today are virtually identical to the size of a Morgan dollar.

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## LARGE CENTS CANNOT DANCE

Michael S. Shutty, Jr.

As I sit in my favorite coffee shop with a bold roast steaming in front of me, I find myself toying with a handful of coins. For two dollars, I get a medium cup of *joe*, a quarter, two dimes and several cents in change. I always examine the quarters first to see which states or parks are

represented. Next, I examine the cents to see if any of them are “shields” or “heritage” coins. The dimes are viewed last: not much to see here.

I sometimes juggle the change in my hand like one does when waiting your turn in line to get a refill. A second cup is only 35 cents. In this moment, I notice how a thin dime almost floats in my palm. I cannot resist juggling it, testing the limits. Twenty cents is even more fun, as two dimes can be made to shuffle over one another like dancers doing the salsa.

All this, from cheap refills and dancing dimes to checking the reverses of cents and quarters, tells what it is like to spend coins in 2012. This is what numismatics is all about. Some of us have spent years studying these impressions across time.

Yet, my coffee shop dalliances with these bits of metal are fleeting. All these musings will be gone in a few moments. So much is lost in a day – like castles washed away in the tide. Our memories are fragmentary at best; a collage of mismatched images is all that remains of our past. We cannot go back and examine it. The twenty-cent salsa – so engrossing in that instant – is forgotten.

We move on, into the future. In fact, if it was not for a few lingering experiences of having had yesterdays, we would be unable to have any concept of history at all. And when we do look back, we cannot help but reorganize our recollections in novel ways so that they make sense. Hence, we tell stories, reshaping our past to conform to what is happening now. All history is fiction. In this way, history has little to do with the past, but rather, is something we are contemplating in the present moment.

So I wonder what it was like to spend a large cent in the late 1840s. As many numismatists, I hold the cent in my hand and imagine that I am holding history. In this case, it is a sepia-toned 1847 N1 cent in very fine condition. But the cent is mute. The history – all the history – is in my head. Ask any two early copper enthusiasts to imagine how it was to spend this 1847 cent, and you will get two very different tales. It does not matter if one collector has read more than the other, as each tale tells more about the collector than the cent.

There are a few anecdotes about large cents in the 1850s. We know the gist of these reports quite well. The cents were bulky and often dirty. They were used for all sorts of non-money purposes: gears and washers for example. But the intimate interactions between large cents and those who spent them are gone. They were fleeting events to begin with: like checking for “heritage” cents or watching two dimes doing the salsa in your palm. A savvy copper enthusiast might launch into a dissertation about the repunched date on the 1847 N1, but despite this distraction, he will get no closer to history.

One day I decided to challenge the passage of time. It was a cloudy, rather pensive, afternoon, so I brought out my touchstone coins. I grasped a Morgan dollar in my hands and admired its heft. A silver dollar cannot be juggled; I know this because I tried it. It just sits there: heavy, full-bodied. I reprised the salsa with a couple of Liberty seated dimes – they danced gracefully. Between these extremes, a juggled large cent just slides around your palm in a small circle, lest you become too rambunctious, allowing it too much air and letting it get away. And two cents: one just slid clumsily, atop of the other.

So this is how pocket change felt back then – folks lined up at the counter, juggling coins. They discovered that large cents could not dance. I imagine that some folks tried for a moment but just stopped lest one of them get away and roll under the counter. By giving the dance a

whirl, I had touched history, or so I imagined. I had come closer to history than any text could bring me. I am sure that numismatic researchers may rise up to argue, but they, too, are frustrated, as I am.

And so, we reach for our lens and go back to attributing die varieties. I realize that the history I experienced on the dance floor was mine and mine alone. History is nothing more than thinking about history in the present. There is no clear evidence that we even have a history. In fact, we are not able to remember our own yesterdays accurately (as my wife frequently reminds me). And if you ask someone near to validate the events of yesterday, they will mis-remember. *Did I get a refill, or did I just have one cup?*

Has my 1847 cent betrayed me? Can it tell me nothing about the past? Maybe it can, or so I hope! But then again, it is all fiction anyway. It is not the truth I want; rather, as a collector of early copper, I want to use my cents to transport me to a past of my own design. Nostalgia mixed with yearnings for necromancy – it is a mysterious alchemy. One thing is for sure: old coins allow us to touch something that feels permanent and stable in the moment. History is stability. We can think anything we want about history, but it has already happened and is wholly predictable up until the present moment.

My gosh! I am happy, and frustrated, that I collect coins and get to wade in this morass. I think we all are richer for it, but we will not remember this tomorrow. And so, off I go, coaxing large cents to dance, while admiring a couple of dimes doing the salsa.

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## **FOREIGN COPPERS USED BY THE EARLY AMERICAN COLONISTS AS COINAGE: PART II--BRITISH FARTHING, HALF PENNIES AND IRISH HIBERNIA**

Howard Spencer Pitkow

### **INTRODUCTION**

In my 16<sup>th</sup> article for *P-W* (Vol. XLV, No. 5, Issue #266) besides noting my primary large cent variety collection, which I will discuss at the end of this publication, I listed approximately 40 other numismatic areas that have caught my collecting interest. Among these were foreign coppers used by our forefathers as coinage during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries before the U.S. mint was established. The Mint Act was passed by the U.S. Congress on April 2, 1792. As I pointed out in my last publication, previous to the Mint Act, the coinage used by our forefathers came in small part from individual state coinage but primarily from other countries. In Part 1 of this series (October, 2011), I discussed the analogy between British 18<sup>th</sup> century provincial copper (Conder) tokens and U.S. Hard Times Tokens. I also mentioned that I had collected over 400 foreign coppers from the time period between 1670 and 1799 from England, Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Peru, France, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and Portugal.

Although our forefathers used German thalers, French louis, Dutch ducats, British coppers and Irish Hibernia the main coinage used by the early American colonists was the Spanish milled dollar also known as the Pillar dollar or “piece of eight.” The milled dollar was valued at 8 reales and was the predecessor of our own U.S. silver dollar. It was also issued in units of one-half,

one, two and four reales. Additionally, the 8 reale milled dollar was cut into its various reale fractions and circulated in the public domain as small change in order to alleviate the coin shortage experienced by the populus. From a historical perspective each reale was known as a “bit” and worth approximately 12.5 U.S. cents. Hence, the common expression used today, of referring to a U.S. quarter as “two bits” (i.e., two reales).

The purpose of this article is to narrow my foreign copper focus and discuss British farthings and half pennies as well as Irish Hibernia coppers that were used as coinage by our forefathers. The British coppers I possess from the various monarchies include those coins from the House of Stuart (Charles II, 1660-1685; William and Mary, 1688-1694; and William III, 1694-1702) and the House of Hanover (George I, 1717-1727; George II, 1727-1760; and George III, 1760-1820).

## BRITISH FARTHINGS AND HALF PENNY COPPERS

As I have alluded to earlier, our forefathers used any foreign coinage they could find, including British farthings and especially half pennies, as well as Irish Hibernia coppers—both prior to and after the U.S. mint was established by Congress in 1792. In fact, foreign coins were used as legal tender in conjunction with U.S. coinage until 1857, when their legal tender status was finally removed.

In Table 1 the reader will note that coinage of British farthings was suspended 10 times during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These periods include the sequences of 1701-1718, 1725-1729, 1738, 1741-1743, 1745, 1747-1748, 1751-1753, 1755-1770, 1772 and 1776-1798. Although these 10 discontinuations were for short periods of time, British farthings were minted for only 27 dates during the 1700’s. I have collected 34 copper farthings for 23 of those 27 dates (85%). As noted in Table 1 the four farthing dates that I am missing are 1722, 1723, 1730 and 1732. As for the late 17<sup>th</sup> century my collection consists of 14 farthings ranging from 1670 to 1699 representing six dates (Table 1).

Along with the Spanish milled (Pillar) dollar, British half pennies were very prevalent as coinage in the American colonies. When we consider my half penny series (Table 2) for the 18<sup>th</sup> century one can observe that half penny coinage was suspended for only five time periods, compared to ten times for farthings. The discontinued sequences for the half pennies were 1702-1716, 1725-1728, 1741, 1755 and 1776-1798. As illustrated in Table 2 half penny coppers were produced for 42 years during the 1700’s. As the reader can ascertain I have collected 70 half penny coppers which includes a complete date set for the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For the late 17<sup>th</sup> century I also possess five copper half pennies for the years 1696, 1697, 1698 and 1699.

## IRISH HIBERNIA COPPERS

“Hibernia” is the ancient name used for Ireland. The earliest Irish coins used in America were the copper half pennies from the early 1600’s. In 1722 King George I of England (1717-1727) signed a contract allowing William Wood to mint the Rosa Americana coins as well as Hibernia copper farthings and half pennies for Ireland. However, the King neglected to consult with the Irish Parliament about this authorization. The Irish, for many reasons including feeling slighted and taken for granted, refused to accept these coins as payments. Many of these unpopular coins produced in England for Ireland were then shipped to the American colonies where they circulated widely as coinage.

Eventually, Wood’s Hibernia coinages of 1722-1724 were removed from circulation by the British government. The Irish were devoid of official copper coins until George II (1727-1760)



authorized half pennies in 1736. In general, Hibernia coppers were minted from the 1600's into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

My collection of 35 Irish coppers can be observed in Table 3. This total also includes three Rosa Americana coppers (1722-1724). Specifically, for my Hibernia half pennies, I collect not only genuine coppers but also contemporary counterfeits from the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Table 3). It is fascinating to compare the genuine and fake Hibernia coppers from the same year. Even though a trained and experienced numismatist can distinguish between the two, one is amazed at the expert craftsmanship given the prevailing technology at the time these reproductions were produced. Since many of these counterfeit Hibernia coppers are in great demand they can command a higher premium than the genuine coins.

#### LARGE CENT VARIETY UPDATE

Since my last detailed large cent update (818 varieties) in the March, 2011 issue of *P-W*, (Vol. XLV, No.2, Issue #263) I have acquired 25 new early date varieties. These coppers include 15 1794s (35 varieties), six 1796s including a R6 NC-1 (23 varieties), two 1797s (S122-R5+ and S125-R5) (25 varieties), and two R5+1798s (S156 and S178) (42 varieties). Also I purchased nine delisted cents. These additions were procured from the following EACers and non-EAC dealers:

Anonymous dealer- a previously unattributed 1796 NC-1 (R6)

Jim Long- S22, S25, S32, S41, S44, S55, S57, S59, S61 (R4) and S156 (R5+)

Chris Young- S23 (R4+), S30 and S87

Jim Young- S122 (R5+), S125 (R5) and S178 (R5+)

Rod Burrell- S43 and S111 (R5-)

Robert LaForme- S88 (R4) and five delisted varieties (1838-N13, 1847-N16, 1849 N15, 1850-N10, and 1852-N9)

David Johnson- S60 and four delisted varieties ( 1847-N25, 1848-N45, 1849-N13 and 1851-N32  
non-EAC dealers- S50 (R5), S58, S90 (R5+) and S93

I am truly indebted to these individuals for their contributions.

For those of you who are interested and keeping score I now possess 843 varieties in my PRIMARY large cent collection consisting of 235 early dates, 242 middle dates and 366 late dates. If we include both my 23 DELISTED large cent (three middle and 20 late dates) and 63 half cent varieties I now have a total of 929 coppers. Additionally, when my DUPLICATE collections are considered, I now possess 460 large cents and 45 half cents.



TABLE I	
BRITISH FARTHINGS (1670 – 1799) IN FOREIGN COPPER COLLECTION <sup>a,b,c</sup>	
17 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY (14) 1670 (5) 1672 (2) 1673 (2) 1675 (3) 1694 1699  18 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY (34) 1700 Discontinued (1701 – 1718) (2) 1719 (3) 1720 (2) 1721 1722 – <u>NEED</u> 1723 - <u>NEED</u> 1724 Discontinued (1725 – 1729) 1730 – <u>NEED</u> 1731 1732 – <u>NEED</u> 1733 1734	1735 (2) 1736 1737 Discontinued (1738) 1739 1740 Discontinued (1741 – 1743) 1744 Discontinued (1745) 1746 Discontinued (1747 – 1748) 1749 (2) 1750 Discontinued (1751 – 1753) (5) 1754 Discontinued (1755 – 1770) 1771 Discontinued (1772) 1773 1774 1775 Discontinued (1776 – 1798) (2) 1799
<sup>a</sup> total farthings (1670 – 1799) = 48 <sup>b</sup> includes 23 of 27 dates for 18 <sup>th</sup> century (85%) <sup>c</sup> four farthings missing from 18 <sup>th</sup> century – 1722, 1723, 1730 and 1732. ( ) = total number per date or century	

TABLE 2	
BRITISH HALF PENNIES (1696 – 1799) IN FOREIGN COPPER COLLECTION <sup>a,b</sup>	
17 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY (5) 1696 (2) 1697 1698 1699	1737 (2) 1738 (4) 1739 (3) 1740 Discontinued (1741) 1742
18 <sup>th</sup> CENTURY (70) (2) 1700 (2) 1701 Discontinued (1702 – 1716) 1717 1718 1719 1720 1721 1722 (2) 1723 (2) 1724 Discontinued (1725 – 1728) 1729 (3) 1730 1731 1732 1733 1734 1735 1736	(2) 1743 1744 1745 1746 (2) 1747 1748 (2) 1749 1750 1751 1752 (2) 1753 1754 Discontinued (1755 – 1769) (3) 1770 (4) 1771 (2) 1772 (4) 1773 1774 (2) 1775 Discontinued (1776 – 1798) (2) 1799
<sup>a</sup> total half pennies (1696 – 1799) = 75 <sup>b</sup> complete date set of 42 coppers for 18 <sup>th</sup> century ( ) = total number per date or century	

TABLE 3	
IRISH HIBERNIA AND ROSA AMERICANA COINS IN FOREIGN COPPER COLLECTION <sup>a</sup>	
A-HIBERNIA (32) 1 – FARTHING 1760 1806  2 – WOOD’S HALF PENNY (6) 1723  3 – HALF PENNY 1682 1694 1738 1741 (2) 1742 1744 1747 1760	(2) 1766 (2) 1769 <sup>b</sup> (2) 1775 <sup>b</sup> (2) 1781 <sup>b</sup> (2) 1782 <sup>b</sup> (2) 1805 (2) 1822  4 – PENNY 1805  B – ROSA AMERICANA (3) 1 – PENNY 1722 1723  2 – TWO PENCE 1724
<sup>a</sup> total Irish coppers = 35 <sup>b</sup> consists of one genuine and one contemporary counterfeit ( ) = total number of coppers	

In my next publication for *P-W* I will discuss one of two topics. The first concerns the series of events which enabled me to discover my second non-collectible, a 1796 NC-1 (R6). (The first was a 1797 NC-5: see Vol. XLII, No. 6, Issue #249, November, 2008). This 1796 copper, purchased for less than 100 dollars, was amongst a hoard of unattributed large cents I obtained from an anonymous dealer at a coin show.

The alternative article for *P-W* describes my critical analysis of the flaws and diagnostic inaccuracies I found in Chinese counterfeit U.S. large cents. These “reproductions” were purchased from a Beijing coin store during a two week vacation to China and Hong Kong in the Fall of 2011.

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## THE BEST SECURED COIN SHOWS FOR 2011

Steven Ellsworth

I personally attended 46 coin shows during 2011 where I paid particular attention to the various types of security that are provided to both dealers and the public. In addition, I received numerous reports from across the nation from coin dealers, collectors, and crime-incident reports from the media and law enforcement sources.

During 2011 we had a murder, several home invasions, numerous roadside robberies, and too many show-event thefts to give an accurate count. Again, we had several armed robberies and assaults that resulted in several shootings. There definitely was an increase in the number of crimes perpetuated against our hobby compared to previous years. Many were due to dealer/collector lapses or lack of their own security procedures. The level of violence and brazenness of criminals continues to escalate. Looking forward to 2012 and with continued strains on the economy, we will most likely see a high level of crimes with theft and robbery being directed at our hobby—because of the liquidity of stolen coins, the amount of money involved, and the relative ease of perpetuating the crime as compared to other criminal endeavors. We are lucrative targets for the criminal, especially since our hobby is advertised in so many local publications, as well as road signs, offering to buy gold and coins.

As in previous years, the single greatest risk to a dealer or collector is being followed after a coin show or event, and then leaving their coins in an unintended vehicle. I have continually advised against this practice for over 20 years; yet, it remains the single largest circumstance in which numismatic losses occur. The loss through theft is mentally traumatic and usually an enormous financial drain on its victims. Some dealers are virtually wiped out, and, a collector who has his or her entire collection stolen usually quits the hobby.

Very few dealers and even fewer collectors spend the time and money needed to actually minimize the risks associated with our hobby, and even fewer take the effort to train for it. It is important to realize that security is an individual's own responsibility and not that of the show promoter, sponsors, the police or government. It is up to every dealer to have a written plan on how they will handle the array of security threats. Many dealers tell me they are "real careful" when they are transporting coins. To which I ask, what is your plan if this or that threat occurs? In nearly all cases they have not thought that far ahead and have no idea what they will do. Their plan they say will evolve by their SOP (seat of the pants), but in reality they will most likely be like a deer in the headlights if they are confronted with a theft.

For the first time, the ANA is offering in 2012, an in-depth five-day security course at their Colorado Springs, Summer Seminar Sessions. The course is titled "*Think Like A Thief: Security for Dealers and Collectors*". The course is orientated toward the professional numismatist. It will teach students how to manage the risks of theft, burglary, robbery, or personal injury to individuals, firms and their families as a coin collector or operator of a coin business. Topics include home, office,

store and coin show security, as well as an in-depth study on how to travel safely by car, taxi, and airplane when transporting collections and coin inventory. Storage security, personal protection, non-lethal, improvised weapons, and the use of deadly force, as well as legal ramifications will be addressed in depth. Case studies and active role-playing will be emphasized. Students will write a basic security plan for themselves and their families, complete NRA 1st steps and Personal Protection in the Home, as well as learn basic firearm safety and familiarization. A written examination for certification is required and meets the Proof of Training requirement for most states' concealed weapons laws. The course is being taught by Doug Davis of Numismatic Crime Information Center, Sgt. Scott Morgan, a Pima County Deputy Sheriff, and by me. When faced with the loss of a dealer's number one asset, this course may be the very best investment or buy a dealer can make. The course is limited as to the number of students, but at least there will be *some* dealers "out there" who may begin to act as a deterrent to the crimes against our hobby and businesses. The target we present to the criminals may just not be so inviting. For more information contact: Susan McMillan, ANA Education 719.482-9850, Email: mcmillan@money.org.

I actually attended most of the shows listed below. Some that are listed, I was unable to attend; but on these I received excellent, detailed reports from multiple attendees. However, of those we have seen or have verified reports on, I would rate, in *alphabetical order*, these as the **"The Best of the Best in Coin Show Security for 2011"**. In compiling this list, I not only took into account the show's security itself, but in addition, the awareness and concern of the sponsors, as it related to security. My objective is to keep security matters on the "front burner" to help dealers and collectors manage the risks posed from theft.

- **Alabama Numismatic Association, Bessemer, AL.** (named in past years). Security is continuously provided by uniformed Bessemer City Police. Unloading and loading at the convention center is observed and supervised by a police presence and provides better than average security for dealers. Law enforcement personnel continually walk the show floor to discourage shoplifting. During the show, patrol cars are highly visible to all attendees. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Bay State Coin Show (C4), Boston, MA.** (named in past years). Security is continuously provided by a private security firm and several off-duty deputy sheriffs. Security is provided in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown. Unloading and loading is under watchful eyes of security personnel. Security personnel continually walk the show floor to discourage shoplifting. A registration fee and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Blue Ridge Numismatic Association, Dalton, GA.** (named in past years). Security is continuously provided by off-duty uniformed Walker County Sheriffs, off duty GBI agents & private security. Security is provided in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown. Unloading and loading is under the watchful eyes of security personnel. Security personnel continually walk the show floor to discourage shoplifting. A registration fee and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Florida United Numismatist Convention, Tampa Bay, FL** (named in past years). Security is provided by a private security contractor and supplemented by numerous off-duty uniformed Orange County Police. Security is vigilant in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown. Security is triple layered with uniformed, plain-clothes, and video surveillance. Parking areas are also patrolled before, during, and following the show. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.

- **Georgia State Numismatic Association, Dalton, GA.** (named in past years). Security is continuously provided by off-duty uniformed Walker County Sheriffs, off duty GBI agents and private security. Security is provided in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown. Unloading and loading is under watchful security personnel. Security personnel continually walk the show floor to discourage shoplifting. A registration fee and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Long Beach Coin Expo. Long Beach, CA.** (named in past years). Security is provided by off-duty Long Beach Police with identifiable “Security” jackets. Ample security is provided in and out of the facility during setup and breakdown, with numerous plain-clothes officers continually working the floor from the moment the show opens until it closes. All security officers have are tied into a monitored communication net. In addition, the convention facility allows for overhead “cat-walk” patrols to deter shoplifting. A registration fee and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN), Monroeville, PA.** Security is provided by a private security firm wearing distinctive company clothing. Security is provided in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees. Unloading and loading is under watchful eyes of security personnel. *As with all shows, collectors and dealers leaving the watchful eyes of show security must immediately implement their own individual plans to avoid theft!*
- **North Carolina Numismatic Association, Hickory, NC** Security is provided by Hickory City Police. Security is excellent during setup and officers escort you to your vehicle during breakdown. Uniformed officers keep constant vigilance of the bourse during the show to deter shoplifting. (In a previous year, a "snatch-grab-run" was foiled with an arrest made.) Officers are well equipped with all the necessary weapons and equipment to handle most any incident. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Texas Numismatic Association, Fort Worth, TX** Security is provided by Doug Davis of Numismatic Crime Information Center and off duty Fort Worth Sheriff Deputies. Security is excellent from setup to breakdown with both uniform and plain-clothes officers keeping constant vigilance of the bourse, parking areas, entrances and exits of the facility. Officers are well equipped with all the necessary weapons and equipment to handle most any incident. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Upstate South Carolina Coin Show, Spartanburg SC.** (named in past years). Security is provided by South Carolina Constables and retired South Carolina State Troopers. Security is vigilant in and out of the facility during set up and breakdown and is continuous during the show. Officers are equipped with additional assault weapons and equipment at night. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Virginia Beach Coin Show, Virginia Beach, VA.** (named in past years). Security is continuously provided by uniformed Virginia Beach Police. Unloading and loading of the convention center is observed by a police presence and provides better than average security for dealers. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.
- **Wasatch Winter Coin Club, Salt Lake City, UT.** (named in past years). Security is provided by off-duty uniformed Salt Lake County Sheriff’s SWAT team deputies. Law enforcement personnel continually walk the show floor to discourage shoplifting. In

addition, they monitor the entrances, and provide surveillance of the unloading and loading of dealers' vehicles.

- **Weyers Cave, VA.** (named in past years). Security is provided by off-duty plain-clothes Augusta County Sheriffs deputies and court security personnel. Even though it is a small show with just 40 tables, two officers are present during the show and during setup and breakdown. Law enforcement personnel continuously monitor the entrances, loading, and parking areas.
- **Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore, MD.** (named in past years). Security is continually provided by private security and uniformed Baltimore City Police. Unloading and loading is in a gated section of the convention center and provides better than average security for dealers. Registration and nametags are required for all attendees.

For more information and tips on security, I invite you to visit my website at [www.Butternut.org](http://www.Butternut.org). Or contact me by email at [BUTTERNUT@Butternut.org](mailto:BUTTERNUT@Butternut.org) , or by regular mail at P.O. BOX 498, Clifton, VA 20124-0498.

\* \* \* \* \*

## R8 QUIZ 140

Hugh Bodell

The coin in R8 quiz 126 from the January issue of *Penny-Wise* has the first hair style and a small fraction. The nickname of this variety is "LIHERTY". With the last A in AMERICA far from the stem, this is S.103. It has the reverse of '94. The other variety with this obverse, S.104 has a medium fraction (compared to 1804) and the reverse of '97. The discovery coin of the terminal die state with the cud at TY was found and reported in 1972. See Reiver/Heritage 1/24/06.

Last winter I took some coins from my safe deposit box to my office scanner and made some images. Here's Hugh's R8 quiz 140: Are these large or small stars? Are these large or small letters in the reverse legend? What is the leaf position at C on this one? What variety is this? Where does a cud develop on this variety? What varieties of this date come with a cud? Which variety of this date comes with the rarest cud? (The answers will appear in the July issue of *P-W*, or every week with a new quiz on Region 8.) Enjoy!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Bruce Reinoehl** writes,

Amen on your article on S-265. I bought Hiram Ward's coin from Denis Loring at EAC in 1979 with the idea that this "mere F-12 coin" should be easy to upgrade later. That has not happened and my appreciation of that coin and the scarcity of the variety has continued to increase.

\* \* \*

**Bob Fagaly** writes,

In the January 2012 issue of *Penny-Wise* (Volume XLVI, Number 1), there is a typo in my article "The Sheldon Scale and Price-Grade Relationships in Large Cent Type Coinage." On page 12, Table III, the Liberty Cap entry for C1981 (G-4) should be \$47, not \$447.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SWAPS AND SALES

EACers are invited to submit their ads for inclusion in this column. Ads up to twelve lines are free. ADS LARGER THAN 12 LINES MUST BE SUBMITTED CAMERA-READY, AND PAID IN ADVANCE. A full-page ad is \$150. Graphic and halftone setup is an *additional* \$60 per page. One-half page is \$75. One-third page is \$50. Ads should be limited to early American Coppers or tokens. Deadline for material to appear in the July 2012 issue is June 30, 2012. All ads must include the individual membership number of a current member in good standing. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota Avenue, Hastings, NE 68901.

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\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

**Jack H. Robinson**, EAC #1308      P.O. Box 430      Centreville, VA 20122  
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\* \* \* \* \*

**Denis Loring**, EAC #11

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Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33420

1800 S-212. VF-20+ (NGC XF-40), no significant defects, medium brown. Ex Reiver. CQR average is \$3000; this a bit better. \$2000.

\* \* \* \* \*

**John Dirnbauer**, EAC #571 P.O. Box 196 Thomaston, ME 04861-0196 207-354-3573

Email: [john@johndirnbauercoins.com](mailto:john@johndirnbauercoins.com)

I, along with my wife Mickey, will attend upcoming 2012 coin shows in **Westford, MA** on Sunday, April 22. May 3-6 we will be at the EAC Convention in **Buffalo, NY** and then on Sunday, May 27, we will be set up again at **Westford, MA**. June 28-July 1 we will be at the Whitman Coin Expo in **Baltimore**. July 8 we will be in **Auburn, MA** and then in **Brunswick, ME** on Sunday, July 15. If you need directions to any of these shows, please send me an email.

\*1803 S254 R1 F15 Die State A with perfect obv. Even, medium brown in color. Strong hair detail. Overall a pleasing, reasonably priced coin. Ex J.J. Teaparty. **Average** planchet. \$375.

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